

Iraq pledges support for Lebanon

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has assured Lebanese President Amin Gemayel that it supports a free and united Lebanon and criticised what it called interference by some Arab states, the official Iraqi News Agency INA said Saturday. President Saddam Hussein told Mr. Gemayel by telephone on Thursday: "Our country stands against the narrow view of some Arab regimes which interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs at the expense of its unity, security and independence," INA said. This was seen as a criticism of Syria, Iraq's ideological foe, which has an estimated 40,000 troops stationed in north and east Lebanon and supports anti-Lebanese government forces involved in the fighting there. Mr. Hussein said the Lebanese government must not be drawn away from its prime responsibility of confronting Israel and forcing all foreign troops to withdraw from Lebanon.

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Crown Prince cables good wishes to Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a cable of good wishes to King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of Saudi Arabia's National Day. In his cable the Crown Prince wished King Fahd success in the leadership of his people to achieve prosperity for his country.

Royal decree appoints new Senate member

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) held a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Ahmad Al Tarawneh. During the meeting a royal decree was read out appointing Mr. Mutlaq Al Hadid a Senate member. Mr. Hadid was later sworn in as a Senate member.

Badran, Santoshi discuss Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran conferred in his office Saturday with Indian Ambassador to Jordan P.L. Santoshi. They reviewed the Middle East situation in general and the situation in Lebanon in particular. Also discussed were Jordanian-Indian cooperation in various fields.

Italian court convicts 5 chemical plant officials

MONZA, Italy (R) — An Italian court, finding five ex-managers of a chemical plant which emitted a cloud of poisonous dioxin partly responsible for the disaster, Saturday gave them jail terms ranging from two and a half to five years. None of the defendants was in the small crowded court at Monza when Judge Cesare di Nuzzio read out the sentence after discussing the verdict for more than 24 hours with his two fellow magistrates.

Bulgarian official charged with spying in U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. government agents arrested a Bulgarian official on espionage charges Friday night as he left a New York restaurant with highly sensitive documents concerning nuclear energy passed to him by an American citizen. Penny Kostadinov, a member of the Bulgarian State Security Service, will be formally charged with spying later Saturday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said.

Bangladesh floods leave 500,000 homeless

DHAKA (R) — Floods sweeping northern and northwestern Bangladesh have left more than half a million people homeless and killed at least 33, officials said Saturday. According to the officials, latest reports said 11 people had died in worst-hit Faridpur district and two in Rajshahi. Newspapers, however, reported 46 deaths and close to one million homeless in five of the nine flooded districts.

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Army clashes with Amal forces in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese army, using tanks and artillery, battled with Amal (hope) militiamen near Beirut Airport Saturday as the focus of the Lebanese conflict shifted from the mountains to the capital.

The army surrounded and shelled Muslim suburbs next to Beirut Airport after the militiamen captured 30 army officers and soldiers, local residents said.

The suburban fighting, and Amal involvement, raised fears that the powerful Shi'ite militia might launch a new front against the Lebanese army, which is already fighting Syrian-backed Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militias in the hills behind the capital.

U.S. Marines at the airport, who spent most of Friday night in bunkers under heavy shelling and gunfire, said they were not being fired on Saturday but that the army and militiamen were fighting around the nearby suburbs of Hay Al Sulum, Mreije and Bourj Al Brajeh.

As the complex Lebanese conflict continued and ceasefire moves stalled, the U.S. battleship New Jersey was reported to be approaching Lebanese waters as a further show of American firepower.

There are already 14 U.S. navy vessels off Beirut, with more than 10,000 American personnel, including 2,600 Marines, on board in addition to the 1,200 Marines at Beirut Airport as part of a peace-

keeping force with British, French and Italian troops.

Both the navy missile cruiser Virginia and the onshore Marines blasted anti-government militia positions with shellfire Friday night after the Marines came under attack. Four Marines were wounded.

As the fighting flared in the southern suburbs, Saudi mediators were said to be trying desperately to find a formula for a ceasefire agreement between the Lebanese government on the one hand and the PSP and other opposition, as well as their Syrian backers, on the other.

Because ceasefire hopes were dashed over political nuances Friday, the Saudis were now trying to win the agreement of both sides to a ceasefire only, with all political issues to be discussed later, Lebanese government sources said.

Other sources close to the ceasefire negotiations said the Saudis were suggesting that Saudi Arabia, other Arab countries and some non-aligned nations could provide guarantees that any agreements worked out between the opposing sides after a ceasefire would go into effect.



U.S. Marines unload supplies from a helicopter at Beirut International Airport as shells explode in the mountains above the airport area (A.P. wirephoto)

Amal militia leader Nabih Berri was quoted Saturday as saying U.S. forces had shelled Shi'ite southern suburbs Friday night.

Lebanese state television said Mr. Berri visited U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon Saturday to complain about the alleged American shelling.

After the USS Virginia and the onshore Marines opened fire Friday night, Marines spokesman

Major Robert Jordan said only that they were aiming east and declined to be more specific.

This could cover the Shi'ite suburbs just east of Beirut Airport of PSP positions in the hills. U.S. Marines had said earlier they were coming under mortar, machine-gun and rifle fire from Shi'ite areas as well as shelling from the hills.

Mr. Berri, expected to play a key role in any ceasefire and sub-

sequent dialogue, said Saturday he did not think the ceasefire moves had reached a dead end. "It is an arduous, complicated road but it is not impossible," he told reporters.

"Americans and others who interfere will only drown in the Lebanese swamp. This swamp needs constant diplomatic movement, not the (battleship) New Jersey," the militia chief said.

Lebanon accepts tripartite summit

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon accepted an Arab League proposal Saturday for a tripartite summit with Syria and Saudi Arabia in the hope of ending heavy fighting which continued Saturday in and around Beirut.

As artillery fire lit the foothills behind the capital, state television reported that Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi had proposed a meeting in Riyadh of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, Saudi King Fahd and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Gemayel and King Fahd had already accepted the proposal, the television said, without mentioning whether Syria had reacted.

The Arab League proposal, under which Mr. Klibi himself would take part, was the latest attempt to end the fighting which has engulfed Lebanon.

Hassan receives British team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday received at the Royal Court a visiting delegation representing the Royal College of Defence Studies in Britain.

During the meeting the Crown Prince spoke about Israel's arbitrary measures in the occupied Arab territories and its drive to Judaize the Arab regions after evicting its indigenous population.

The Israeli measures are being escalated and increased due to the lack of international will to improve effective and firm measures to counter them, Prince Hassan said. The meeting was attended by British Ambassador to Jordan Alan Urwick.

Earlier, the delegation met Information Minister Adnan Abu

Odeh who spoke about the situation in Lebanon and its impact on the Middle East region in general and the Palestine issue in particular. "The focussing of world attention on Lebanon's civil war has pushed the central issue of Palestine into the background", Mr. Abu Odeh said.

Mr. Abu Odeh stressed the fact that Israel, benefiting from the current situation in Lebanon, is consolidating its hold on the occupied West Bank and establishing more settlements. The Israelis have recently stepped up this policy by establishing settlements inside the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, Mr. Abu Odeh said.

During the meeting the minister also reviewed with the delegation the dangers resulting from Israel's oppressive measures and said that the current situation is helping the Israelis to pursue their aggressive policies.

The delegation later met with Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and senior army officers, and also with the speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al Tarawneh and Senate members.

At the meeting, Mr. Tarawneh spoke about the Palestine issue and the various peace initiatives to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. A discussion followed in which both sides discussed Britain's role in helping to solve Middle East issues. The meeting was attended by the British Ambassador Alan Urwick.

The delegation later called at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with its Acting Director Dr. Fakhreddin Daghestani.

96 Pakistanis, 9 Britons die in Gulf Air crash

BAHRAIN (R) — Ninety-six Pakistanis and nine Britons were reported to be among 112 people killed Friday when a Gulf Air jet on a flight from Karachi to Bahrain crashed near Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Gulf Air said in a statement that a twin-engine Boeing 737, flying from Karachi to Bahrain, crashed 48 kilometres from Abu Dhabi Airport. It made no mention of casualties or possible causes of the accident.

But the official UAE News Agency WAM quoted a Gulf Air official in Karachi as saying the 112 people killed included 96 Pakistanis, seven Britons, an American and an Iranian. There were no survivors.

The agency, which quoted the official as saying the pilot was an Omani and the co-pilot a Bahraini, gave no names.

The Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency said the dead also included two British hostesses and a Bahraini chief hostess.

WAM said it understood that 72 of the Pakistanis on the plane were travelling from Karachi to Abu Dhabi, while the 24 others were going on to Doha, Qatar.

There was no indication of exactly where the plane crashed, but aviation sources in Bahrain said it might have come down in a military area. This could account for the lack of firm public information.

Gulf Air said a 12-member team of technicians led by the airline's chief executive, Ali Ibrahim Rashid, had left Bahrain for Abu Dhabi to inspect the debris and determine the cause of the accident.

Kabul seeks to regain support in eastern district

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Soviet-backed Kabul government appears to be trying to regain support among tribes along Afghanistan's eastern frontier after large-scale defections to Muslim guerrillas there. Western diplomats said here Saturday.

They noted a report by the Soviet News Agency Novosti saying seven tribes recently joined government officials in a Jirga (tribal council) in Khost, a town under heavy pressure from guerrillas fighting for an Islamic Republic.

The report, distributed by the Soviet embassy here, said chiefs and elders of the tribes assured the officials they would protect towns, bridges and roads from what it called counter-revolutionary bands.

Travellers coming from the area earlier this week said several dozen Soviet advisers in the Afghan army garrison there were flown out because of an expected guerrilla attack.

Capturing Khost and two other besieged towns along the border, Urgun and Jaji, would allow the guerrillas to move men and material more easily from their bases in Pakistan into the interior of Afghanistan.

The diplomats noted that earlier government-sponsored Jirgas have sometimes backfired on those attending. They said several tribesmen who attended a highly-publicised meeting in Kabul were later murdered when they returned to their villages.

The Soviet embassy in Washington had protested over the incidents, which TASS said were part of a series of "insolent provocations" against Soviet citizens in the United States, staged by the U.S. Security Services.

The aim was to foment anti-Soviet psychosis to prepare public opinion for the deployment of new U.S. missiles in Europe later this year, it added.

The Kremlin has been waging a campaign against alleged U.S. provocations since a Soviet fighter shot down a South Korean Boeing 747 three weeks ago, killing 269 people.

World leaders gather for U.N. session

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Leaders in international diplomacy began to gather Saturday for a United Nations General Assembly session expected to be one of the stormiest in recent memory because of current East-West tensions.

Foreign Ministers of several states — but not Andrei Gromyko of the Soviet Union — are already on hand for Monday's start of the substantive part of the session.

On Sunday, President Reagan will be the first of some 40 heads of state or government to arrive for U.N. appearances. Prime Min-

ister Indira Gandhi of India, head of the Non-Aligned Movement, arrives on Monday.

Other leaders due at the U.N. next week will include French President Francois Mitterrand, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, King Hassan of Morocco, and Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Tanzania's Julius Nyerere.

Mr. Reagan will give a lunch Sunday for U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Aides said the occasion would provide an opportunity for the President and Mr. Perez de Cuellar to clear

the air after a week of chilled relations between the world body and the United States.

The coolness was induced by suggestions in the U.S. that the U.N. was welcome to get out of New York, and a Senate decision to slash the American contribution to the organisation.

Senior American officials at the U.N. and in Washington sought Friday to improve the atmosphere, reaffirming administration support for the U.N. and stating that this would be one of Mr. Reagan's themes in his address to the General Assembly.

Salem holds talks with Cheysson

PARIS (R) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem said Saturday he was returning home after talks with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson because the chances of a ceasefire appeared to be receding as fresh fighting was reported from around Beirut.

Mr. Salem arrived from Athens unexpectedly Friday amid a flurry of diplomatic activity as intermediaries in the Middle East

sought to get a Saudi-arranged ceasefire plan accepted.

He was to have flown to New York Sunday to head Lebanon's delegation at the United Nations General Assembly, but told reporters after two hours of talks with Cheysson that he was heading back to Beirut.

Lebanese embassy officials were unable to say if Mr. Salem had brought any specific message to France, which has 2,000 men in

the Multinational Force and whose navy jets carried out an air strike against what a spokesman said were Syrian artillery batteries on Thursday.

As the two men talked, reports from Lebanon said the Saudis were trying to overcome problems in getting Syria to accept the ceasefire, which president Amin Gemayel was reported to have agreed to Friday.

Palestinian fighters move out of Bekaa Valley

BEIRUT (R) — More than 1,000 Palestinian commandos are moving north out of Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley under Syrian orders, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman said Saturday.

Ahmad Abdul Rahman, speaking to Reuters by telephone from the north Lebanese port of Tripoli, said the commandos were moving to the Hama area, in the far northeast of Lebanon.

He said all the commandos were members of Fatah, the largest group in the PLO. He described them as "our forces" — apparently indicating they were loyal to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. A PLO statement issued in

Amman Friday said Syrian tanks had encircled Palestinian bases in the Bekaa and given the commandos one hour to leave or face eviction by force.

Some 6,000 Fatah commandos are believed to be based in the Syrian-held Bekaa, but many of these are loyal to Abu Musa and Abu Saleh, two pro-Syrian commanders who challenged Mr. Arafat's leadership last May.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said the Syrian order, which reached Tripoli Friday afternoon, gave no reason for the move.

The PLO statement said Mr. Arafat had asked Saudi Arabia to clarify whether the order was con-

nected with a proposed ceasefire between the Lebanese army and anti-government forces near Beirut, Mr. Abdul Rahman declined to give any details of the message.

Asked if the pro-Arafat forces would be able to stay in Hama, a mountainous area on the northeastern slopes of the Lebanon range, he said: "We will see."

The bulk of Mr. Arafat's men in Lebanon have already moved to the Tripoli area, where the PLO leader arrived last week on his first visit to Lebanon for three months.

The Palestinian camps near Tripoli are in the middle of Syrian-held territory and Mr. Arafat has not explained how he re-

tained.

In an interview Friday, he said Syrian troops let him through their checkpoints when he visited the south of Lebanon on Tuesday.

He said relations with Syria were still strained, but that he was doing his best to improve them.

The PLO statement said the commander of Syrian forces in the Bekaa summoned Fatah officers at 4 p.m. Friday and asked them to get their men out within the hour.

It said Mr. Arafat asked Saudi Arabia and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi to intervene and have the order rescinded, but apparently this had no effect.

Gulf states to hold joint military exercises

BAHRAIN (R) — The six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will hold a three-week joint military exercise from Oct. 2 in a move to show their determination to defend the oil-rich region.

Announcing the exercise, Abu Dhabi heir-apparent Sheikh Khalifa bin Zaid was quoted Saturday by the official United Arab Emirates News Agency (WAM) as saying it would be followed by naval and air force exercises next year.

The six members of the two-year-old GCC are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and

Oman. Sheikh Khalifa, a lieutenant-general and deputy commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said the exercise codenamed "Gazira (island) Shield" was part of the setting up of a GCC Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) capable of defending the region.

The force would "contribute in maintaining stability in this sensitive part of the world," he said.

The Gulf council was formed two years ago as an economic and security grouping partly due to fears of member states for their security following Iran's Islamic Revolution and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

Sheikh Khalifa said each member would provide a ground unit with the UAE Air Force playing a "supportive role." Live ammunition will be used, he said.

The UAE agency quoted him as saying the exercise was codenamed Gazira Shield to symbolise unity among the Arab Gulf countries and "the common objective of bringing their people together."

He said the manoeuvres revealed the "determination of the GCC members to preserve their identity and sovereignty and their full commitment to defend their interests and protect their natural

wealth against all ambitions."

Stability in the region would enable the governments to concentrate on the development of their countries for the benefit of their own people, he added.

The Gulf force resembles the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force set up by President Carter in 1980 following the Iranian Revolution and the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

The American force was designed to answer any request for help from a Gulf state and as such had access to airfields in Egypt, Sudan, Oman and Somalia where it has staged joint exercises.

MIDDLE EAST

Souk Al Gharb becomes focus of Lebanon conflict

By Hugh Carnegie

SOUK AL GHARB, Lebanon (R) — This shell-smashed mountain town, stubbornly defended by the Lebanese army with the help of American naval guns, has become the focus of the army's battle to resist Syrian-backed rebels pressing on Beirut.

After almost three weeks facing artillery and ground assaults, exhausted soldiers garrisoned in Souk Al Gharb early Friday enjoyed a relative calm as hopes rose that diplomatic efforts to secure a ceasefire would succeed at last. The hopes proved abortive later in the day.

Army mortars dug in among the town's splintered and broken pine trees pumped out irregular rounds and several shells came crashing back. Snipers from both sides exchanged sporadic fire.

But the intensity of fighting was much reduced. "It's an abnormal day," grinned one helmeted soldier slumped in the back of a dusty armoured personnel carrier (APC).

Once a leafy resort town, Souk Al-Gharb came under attack early this month as leftist anti-government forces threw back their rightist militia rivals from the Shouf Mountains and met the army's main line of defence southeast of Beirut.

The fighting has ravaged the town, destroying many buildings, ripping great holes in the roads, felling telephone lines and bursting water pipes.

Tanks, jeeps, APCs and ambulances line the streets, parked close to stout stone walls for maximum cover. Spent cartridge cases of every calibre litter the streets, and empty ammunition boxes are scattered everywhere.

None of the town's 4,000 mainly Greek Orthodox inhabitants was to be seen. Almost all fled in the fighting.

The army has turned the town's hotel, the Hijjar, into its command post and main billet. The floors are lined with mattresses and an APC is backed up to the main entrance to serve as a communications centre.

From the hotel's terrace, its orange canvas canopy shredded by shrapnel, a magnificent panorama of Beirut 600 metres below and 15 kilometres away gives an idea of why Souk Al Gharb is so vital strategically.

If the leftist Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militiamen held the town, which sits atop a ridge running east-west towards the Mediterranean, they could train their guns straight at the capital and at the American, French, Italian and British peacekeeping troops stationed there.

They could also fire directly at President Amin Gemayel's palace in Baabda a few kilometres north of Souk Al Gharb.

In such a position, diplomats say, leaders of the Druze minority and their Syrian backers could start to dictate their demands, which include a constitutional shake-up to give them greater say in the government.

Control of Souk Al Gharb would also allow the Druze and their allies access from towns and villages they already control to the east in the Shouf to other Druze communities in Aitah, Ain Anoub and Shweifat in the west.

This would leave them with an unbroken chain of commanding

positions south of Beirut stretching almost to the sea.

By the same token, a defensive line raised by the army in an arc southeast of the capital would be broken if Souk Al Gharb fell.

In addition, Souk Al Gharb is now being seen by Lebanese of all loyalties as a test of the effectiveness of the newly-rebuilt, American-trained army.

Were it to fall, the credibility of the 33,000-strong force would be severely dented, along with that of Mr. Gemayel's government which relies on the army for much of its authority in the small area of Lebanon around Beirut that it controls.

The United States, concerned for the safety of its 1,200 Marines in the peacekeeping force as well as Mr. Gemayel's government, acknowledged this when its ships off Beirut went into action last Monday to prevent Souk Al Gharb from falling.

Hundreds of shells were fired at rebel positions around the town in the first military action by the U.S. in Beirut not prompted directly by a threat to American lives.

According to PSP fighters in Alek, just across the front line from Souk Al Gharb, the massive U.S. barrage stopped an assault on the town just as they expected to capture it.

They said they had not launched any major ground attack on Souk Al Gharb since then, although Lebanese troops in the beleaguered town dispute this. The PSP indicated they had no intention of doing battle with the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

French Super Etendard jets went into action Thursday, bombing anti-government forces near Alek after four French soldiers were wounded in the shelling of Beirut.

After the bombing, the first by the multi-nations force, the level of shelling and fighting in the mountains dropped significantly and remained Friday this morning.

But all that changed abruptly in the afternoon, after ceasefire moves, earlier reported successful, again appeared deadlocked.

U.S. Marines at Beirut Airport came under intense shelling later Friday evening, with rounds landing at the rate of one every five seconds, state-run Beirut Radio reported.

A U.S. Marines spokesman said the missile cruiser USS Virginia fired one of its five-inch guns and the Marines used a 155mm howitzer against positions east of Beirut Airport.

The naval and ground fire came after the Marines had two men wounded when they came under fire from mortars, machineguns, rifles and even an anti-aircraft gun, according to a Marine spokesman.

The fire appeared to be part of battles between the Lebanese army and PSP militias in the suburbs close to the airport and the nearby hills, after the early morning lull.

The Lebanese army has insisted repeatedly that most of the fighters it faces on the front line are Palestinian guerrillas.

Citing this and Syrian support for the PSP, the army and the government say the current conflict is not civil warfare, but an attack by foreign forces on Mr. Gemayel's regime.

The PSP fighters in Alek strongly deny any significant outside Palestinian involvement.

They say the few Palestinians fighting with them are men who live in the area. They say the PSP are fighting only to secure "equal rights" for their people in the mountains following an influx of rightist militiamen to the area after the Israeli occupation last year.

They accuse Mr. Gemayel of favouring the rightist militias.



A BIT OF ARM WRESTLING: U.S. Marines serving in Beirut try arm wrestling during a lull in the shelling. From left to right: Corporal Thomas

Stowe of Somerville NJ, Corporal Darrel Siller of Apopka, FL and Corporal Ray Page of Dunn, NC. (A.P. wirephoto)

Para-military alert in Sind Province for local elections

ISLAMABAD (R) — Troops and para-military forces were on standby in Pakistan's troubled Sind Province Saturday as campaigning started officially for controversial local council elections on Wednesday.

Residents of Karachi, the provincial capital, said they saw groups of soldiers in several parts of the city Saturday morning and opposition sources reported para-military forces patrolling central Sind towns.

Provincial officials have said the elections, which political parties banned under martial law are not allowed to contest, will go ahead as planned despite an opposition boycott.

Officials in central Sind, scene of the most violent protests against President Mohammad Zia Ul

Haq's six-year martial law regime, had earlier urged a delay because many records had been destroyed in attacks on government buildings.

According to official figures, more than 40 people have been killed since the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) launched its anti-martial law campaign on Aug. 14. The opposition has put the death toll at more than 100.

The eight parties in the MRD reject the elections as a fraud and have demanded Gen. Zia's resignation and immediate elections for a civil parliament.

Gen. Zia has twice cancelled scheduled general elections since seizing power in 1977 from former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was executed later. Last month he promised to hold elections by March 1985.

Provincial authorities warned that no marches or public meetings would be allowed during the three-day campaign. The local councils were first elected in 1979.

Candidates approved by electoral commissions are allowed to canvass door-to-door and distribute pamphlets.

It is not known how many candidates have been rejected in Sind because of their ties with banned parties.

According to the Karachi daily, Dawn, electoral commissions in the province of Punjab, where local polls will take place on Thursday, have rejected over 90 per cent of applicants.

Gen. Zia has twice cancelled scheduled general elections since seizing power in 1977 from former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was executed later. Last month he promised to hold elections by March 1985.

U.S., allies amass massive naval strike power off Lebanese waters

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and its allies in the Beirut peacekeeping force are amassing a strong fleet off Lebanon in what U.S. officials say is a show of support for the government of President Amin Gemayel.

Some of the vessels in the growing fleet of U.S., British, French and Italian ships are in the area on exercises ostensibly unrelated to the fighting in Lebanon.

But U.S. officials said the naval presence, with its massive striking power, makes clear to the anti-government factions in Lebanon the extent of Western backing for Mr. Gemayel's government.

They said the fleet could be cal-

led into action, beyond the present U.S. shelling of opposition militia units with five-inch (127 mm) missiles, should the situation deteriorate.

U.S. naval forces in the Mediterranean, already strong with 35 ships, were augmented this week by the arrival of the battleship New Jersey, with its 16-inch (406 mm) guns which can lob 2,700-pound (1,230 kg) shells 35 kilometres.

Among the 12 U.S. ships now off the Lebanese coast is the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Eisenhower with 90 planes.

France's aircraft carrier Foch with about 40 planes, including

Super Etendard fighters which hit leftist positions Thursday is also off Lebanon, backing French troops in the peacekeeping force.

The British sent three carriers to the eastern Mediterranean, but they say the Hermes and Illustrious, with helicopters, Harrier "jump-jets" and 1,000 commandos, are there for North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) exercises.

And London says the Invincible is in the area on a flag-shiping tour before going through the Suez Canal to Australia and the Far East.

Italy has three frigates backing its contingent in the peace force.

French strike reportedly coordinated from Paris

PARIS (R) — The French air strike Thursday against targets behind Syrian lines in Lebanon was directly coordinated from a command centre in Paris, the influential newspaper Le Monde said.

Le Monde, citing military sources, said three waves of aircraft from the carrier Foch were directly involved in the raid, as well as Crusader interceptors to provide fighter cover.

It said the operation was conceived in Paris and commanded from the French capital by General Jeannot Lacaze, the armed forces chief of staff.

The first wave consisted of Etendard reconnaissance jets which

surveyed the targets — artillery batteries in an area controlled by Syrian troops, Le Monde said.

It said Super Etendards equipped with bombs, rockets and cannon then attacked the targets, and photo-reconnaissance jets followed up to ascertain damage.

Military experts said the technical equipment aboard the Super Etendards would enable them to place a bomb within 20 metres of a target. Le Monde said a total of 10 aircraft flew from the Foch on the mission.

Le Monde said the Foch was due to be replaced on the eastern Mediterranean station by the carrier Clemenceau in the first two weeks of October.

Greece, Cyprus say U.N. initiative is 'useful'

ATHENS (R) — Greece and Cyprus Saturday described as useful and constructive a plan by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for a solution to the Cyprus issue.

A communique issued at the end of talks here between the visiting Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said the two sides reached an identity of views on the matter.

The plan, drawn up by Mr. Perez de Cuellar, lays out two possible arrangements for a federal Cyprus and both involve land concessions by the Turkish Cypriots. One suggests that the presidency of Cyprus should rotate between

the two communities. The two sides pledged their support to ensure success for the U.N. initiative and the two countries have already expressed confidence over the plan.

Greek Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Yannis Kapsis and the new Cypriot Foreign Minister Georgios Iakovou and diplomats from the two sides also took part in the talks.

In a statement after the talks, Prime Minister Papandreu said both Greece and Cyprus had responded positively to the U.N. initiative from the beginning and had even encouraged the secretary-general.

Iran's Bahai's demand end to persecution

LONDON (R) — Leaders of the Bahai faith have appealed to Tehran to stop what they called persecution of followers in Iran after they had complied with a government order to dissolve their administrative institutions.

British spokesman for the Bahai faith, established in Persia in the middle of the 19th century to preach world unity, told a press conference here that administrative assemblies of Iran's 300,000 Bahai's were told to disband last week.

"We complied with the Iranian order and therefore ask that persecution of Bahai's in Iran stop," said Simon Mortimore, chairman of the National Spiritual Bahai Assembly in Britain.

Bahai's officials say persecution of the faith, which is regarded by Iran's Shi'ite Muslims as heresy, has increased since Ayatollah Khomeini came to power in 1979.

The decree on dissolution of Bahai institutions — the faith has no clergy and elected assemblies look after communities — was announced on Aug. 29 by a Tehran newspaper.

Mr. Mortimore said that although the Iranian embassy in London had so far not confirmed the order, Bahai's leaders, in keeping with their policy of obeying the law of the land, had ordered their assemblies in Iran to stop functioning.

Bahai's officials say 142 Bahai's have been executed in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution and 16 are missing. Scores of others are in jail awaiting trial, many on charges of spying for the United States and Israel.

Bangladeshi exile arrested upon return

DHAKA (R) — A former Bangladeshi minister, sought since the military seized power in March last year, was arrested Friday within a week of returning to the country, police said.

They said retired Col. Akbar Hossain, a minister in the cabinet of assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, would be charged with corruption and defying a martial law order to surrender.

Col. Akbar went into hiding soon after last year's military takeover and left the country when a martial law court ordered him to surrender to answer charges of corruption. The court declared him "wanted" and ordered the confiscation of all his property.

Sources in his family said no specific charges had been laid against him and he had left Bangladesh legally as a free citizen.

Akbar is the 12th former minister to be arrested since the country's military ruler, Lt. Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad, launched a crusade against corruption last year.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran
16:30 Children's Programme
17:00 Nighty Mouse
17:25 Children's Programme
17:40 Children's Programme
18:10 Foreign Programme: Prestige
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 A Special Programme on Yemen's National Day
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Show
21:35 Local Programme
22:10 Local Series
23:10 News Summary

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Comedy George and Mildred
21:10 Hollywood
22:00 News in English
22:15 Magnum

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99.5 FM, & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
08:00 News Summary
08:45 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:00 Pop Session
10:30 News Summary
11:00 Catch the Words
11:40 News Bulletin
12:15 Instrumentals
13:00 Science Report
13:30 Concert Hour
14:00 News Summary
14:30 Instrumentals, Old Favorites
15:00 News Summary
15:30 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 News Summary
17:00 News Summary
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22:30 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
23:30 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Divertimento
06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30 Words and Music 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Countdown 08:45 World News 09:00 News about Britain 09:15 From Our Own Correspondent 09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:30 Reflections 10:45 The Play of the Week 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 Sports Review 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 12:40 World News 12:55 News about Britain 13:15 Letter from America 13:30 Baker's Half Doin 14:00 Play of the Week 15:00 World News 15:05 Commentary 15:15 Good Books 15:30 Short Story 15:45 The Tony Mynar Request Show 16:30 Cricket Commentary 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 From the Promenade 17:45 World News 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 From Our Own Correspondent 18:35 Financial Review 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:05 Meridian 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 World News 20:05 News about Britain 20:15 Roads Newsdesk 20:30 Brain of Britain 1983 21:00 Words and Music 21:15 Maigret 22:00 World News 22:05 Commentary 22:15 Letterbox 22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 The Towers of Trebizon 23:15 The Picture's Yours 24:00 World News 00:00 Science in Action 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Roundup 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Letter from America 01:30 Songs of an English Summer

VOICE OF AMERICA

KHz: 1260, 5965, 7200, 15205, 11725

06:00 The Breakfast Show: News, Information, Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, News Summary at 30 minutes past the hour, 17:00 News 17:10 News Horizons and New Products 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Special English News and Features

WHAT'S GOING ON

CULTURAL CENTRES

Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37005
Goethe Institute 41903
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hays Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzazah, Jabel Lweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

SERVICE CLUBS

Leban Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphina Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Philadelphina Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 8.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabel Lweibdeh, 37440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabel Hussein, 661757.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abdali, 23541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabel Amman, 41559.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

08:15 Tripoli, Larnaca (LD)
08:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:05 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:40 Doha (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
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DEPARTURES

06:30 Beirut (RJ)
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Club delegates brief members on women's international meeting

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Professional and Business Women's Club held a meeting Saturday to inform its members of the results of a visit by club delegation to the women's international conference in Washington. The meeting was attended by Minister of Social Development In'am Al Mufti and by around 50 of the club's members.

The conference of Professional and Business Women's Federation was held between Aug. 31-Sept. 5. Altogether 65 countries from all over the world participated yielding around 1,200 delegates.

Briefing the club's members on the conference, the club's President, Hind Abdul Jabbar, said that Jordan was the only Arab country to participate and was represented by members of the Amman club.

The conference, which was opened by senior American officials and held under the slogan of "Strategy for Success," was run along two lines: official sessions and workshops, she said.

The official programme, Mrs. Abdul Jabbar explained, comprised of the presentation of working papers and lectures given by the federation's various members.

She went on to say that the conference discussed many important subjects related to working women and discussed amendments and suggestions with regard to the federation's constitution.

The voting was then taken on the amendments to the constitution that had been introduced during the conference, she said.

It was suggested that the various clubs should be divided up on a regional basis in accordance with their economic and social situation but this "was fiercely debated and was then defeated," she said.

The conference's second course, Mrs. Abdul Jabbar said, was to arrange workshops. During the workshops, she said, the Amman club participated in discussing the working papers prepared by the

delegation before departure.

The five-member delegation was also represented in the federation's working committees, she said.

Mrs. Samira Oussous participated in the workshop of the United Nations Committee, Mrs. Reem Damen in the workings of the Cultural and Educational Committee, Mrs. Abla Haddad in the Membership Committee and Mrs. Abdul Jabbar in the Women's Employment Committee.

Mrs. Abdul Jabbar said that the president of the employment committee, who is French, suggested a discussion on women's job opportunities and employment.

The discussion, she said, handled mainly the extent of women's contribution in the governmental and private sectors; the reasons for women's interest in one sector rather than the other and the reasons that limit her participation in the areas of advanced technology, engineering and construction.

It also discussed women's reasons for leaving their jobs after marriage, and possible solutions aimed at boosting her participation in the employment field, she said.

Mrs. Abdul Jabbar added that the committee discussed the reasons behind failure of women to attain leading posts and responsible positions within society.

Women's education, health and living conditions were also discussed as well as the rights of one parent families and the legislation which could be passed to protect the working woman, she said.

"The Jordanian delegation briefed the committees on women's experiences in Jordan in all aspects of life and we exchanged different points of view which seek to solve outstanding problems related to woman," she said.

On the visits the delegation made whilst in Washington, Mrs. Abdul Jabbar said that they visited the Women's Bureau in the U.S. State and Labour Departments.

The other members of the delegation also briefed the club's members on their participation in the federation's other committees.



Delegates to the conference on mental health Saturday listen to one of the opening sessions held here at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office (Petra photo)

Malhas urges development of mental health services

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day regional symposium on developing mental health programmes in the eastern Mediterranean region and the Middle East opened here Saturday.

Delegates from 15 nations, along with representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO), are taking part in the discussions which are being held at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office in Amman.

The agenda of the symposium aims to focus on developing mental health programmes over the next five years, expanding mental health care and primary health services and the rationalisation of the use of drugs.

Opening the first session, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas stressed the need for the provision of more mental health care. He outlined the health service programmes organised by his ministry over the past 30 years in general

and plans for developing future mental health facilities in particular.

Also addressing the first session was Dr. Mohammad Kan'an, chairman of the committee that organised the symposium. He outlined in his address mental health treatment in Jordan since 1922 and the services offered to the mentally ill by hospitals and health clinics, and called for the further development of mental health services.

Dr. Taha Ba'shar, WHO's regional director of mental health, said in a speech that the symposium agenda focuses attention on the need to expand mental health treatment based on primary health. He also urged the delegates to work towards dev-

elopng comprehensive mental health programmes in their own countries.

The director of WHO's mental health department made a speech outlining the role of his organisation in developing mental health services and programmes in the region. He expressed the hope that the symposium will issue recommendations and resolutions that would help promote the provision of such services.

Taking part in the five-day meeting, which is sponsored by WHO in cooperation with the Health Ministry, are delegates from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, North and South Yemen, Bahrain, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Cyprus.

Also attending the first session was Minister of Education Sa'id Al Tal and several senior officials of the Ministry of Health.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Salt architectural style to be developed

SALT (Petra) — A team representing professors and students from the Engineering Faculty at the University of Jordan Saturday paid a field visit to Salt to familiarise themselves with its old architectural style and to choose a site for setting up an architectural project that will represent the distinctive architectural style of the city.

Development corporation draws up plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Development Corporation has drawn up a working plan to establish shopping centres and car parks, a spokesman for the corporation said. He added that the plan also aims to develop services in Amman as well as building public gardens and recreational centres. Upon the approval of this plan, work will start on the implementation of the projects, he concluded.

Irbid housing details to be announced

IRBID (Petra) — The Housing Corporation will shortly announce conditions for the acquisition of housing units in the Irbid Housing project, the corporation's Director Hamdullah Nabulsi said here Saturday. He said that the units will be distributed to government employees in the Irbid Governorate. The project, which contains 392 housing units, will soon be completed and its overall cost is expected to be JD 3.5 million. Part of the housing units will go to teachers employed by the Ministry of Education in the governorate, Mr. Nabulsi added.

Cash flow seminar opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-week seminar on liquidity and working capital began Saturday at the Jordanian Institute of Management. The seminar aims at briefing the 23 participants, who are drawn from a number of firms, on cash flow inventory and liability planning. The seminar will discuss the various techniques used in the management of working capital, cash, liquidity and budgeting.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Consisting of one bedroom, salon, dining room, bathroom and kitchen with central heating, garden and independent entrance.

Location: Shmeisani, near Yugoslav Embassy.
Please call tel: 661658 Amman

LUXURIOUSLY FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consists of two bedrooms, salon, living room, dining room, two verandas, fully equipped kitchen and two bathrooms; with independent central heating and telephone.

Location: Abdallah Ghosheh Suburb
For more details call Mohammad Al Hammouri tel: 663499

Pilgrims return to camp

JORDAN VALLEY (J.T.) — Muslim pilgrims from Palestinian territory occupied since 1948 have returned to the pilgrims' camp here. The pilgrims, who have just performed their pilgrimage to Mecca and the other religious sites in Saudi Arabia, expressed their appreciation and gratitude to King

Hussein and the Jordanian people and government for the services and facilities offered them during their stay in Jordan.

The pilgrims are expected to leave for the occupied territory via the Jordanian bridges Sunday morning.

JVA urged to allocate land for public services

SALT (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has been requested by the mayor of South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley to assign a number of sites for the establishment of parks and public gardens as well as cemeteries and sports fields, according to the JVA Director Munther Haddadin.

He was speaking at a meeting held at the town of South Shuneh

Saturday to discuss public service provisions for the town. At the meeting, the mayor, Abdul Ilah Al 'Idwan, said that the JVA has also been requested to move the present irrigation canals to another area so that the town's projects can be implemented. These would include the widening of the town's streets, he said.

A GROUND-FLOOR FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Consisting of three bedrooms, salon, dining room, veranda (7x2 m) with central heating and independent entrance.

Location: Tlaa' El 'Ali, near the municipality.
Call tel: 39212 Amman between 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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Jordan Times

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Step by step backwards

SINCE 1967, when Israel occupied territories belonging to three of its neighbours, the United States has followed a piecemeal policy of tackling one issue in the Middle East at a time and setting other equally important issues aside for future consideration. In the course of 16 years, therefore, while disengagement and withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai has been achieved, the status of the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan Heights has been indefinitely put on hold. Overall American policy objectives in the region have been ambiguous and vacillating.

The latest example of the piecemeal approach and its consequences has been the decision to let U.S. attention toward the occupied territories lapse almost completely while efforts are made to reach some sort of settlement in Lebanon. As diplomatic activity in Lebanon drags on endlessly, the United States allows the government of outgoing Prime Minister Menachem Begin to offer financial inducements to persuade Israelis to settle in the occupied territories and to "create facts" that appear difficult to reverse.

Undoubtedly, Israel relishes the benign neglect toward its activities in the occupied territories. The occupation of Lebanon has already provided Israel, at a cost of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian civilian lives, almost 15 months to pursue its settlement activities unchecked. Just as surely, the recent State Department's observation that it would be "impractical" to dismantle existing settlements was for Israel a welcome reminder that if it is left alone long enough, the reality of the settlements it has positioned on the occupied territories will be far more vivid in the minds of succeeding administrations than the fact that stated U.S. policy has consistently opposed their establishment in the first place.

If a peace settlement that will be accepted by all parties is to be found, the United States must continue a piecemeal approach. The tactic of attempting to solve (often without success) one problem at a time while all other issues are allowed to languish must be replaced by a comprehensive and cohesive strategy that makes America's Middle East policy — and goals — unmistakable to all parties. Otherwise even piecemeal solutions to specific problems in the Middle East will ultimately be steps backward in the search for peace. — Focus, the bulletin of the National Association of Arab Americans

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Internal mediation a priority

IT LOOKS as though the prospects for a settlement in Lebanon have faltered and the mediators shuttling between Damascus and Beirut have not been able to clinch a ceasefire agreement. It also seems that the aspirations of the two parties to the conflict were very much bigger than the reality. As the fighting goes on, the foreign navies continue to cruise along the coast of Lebanon and victims continue to fall everywhere, pending the diplomatic efforts by parties which are not Lebanese.

The real reason behind the failure of the mediation efforts so far is that the initiative for peace and national dialogue did not emanate from within Lebanon, but came from outside. Moreover the diplomatic efforts were accompanied by different forms of intimidation, shelling by land and sea and air as well as psychological warfare. The Lebanese government itself should have taken the initiative and started serious efforts to end the conflict and establish peace in the country. It should not have allowed outside mediators to act as if their countries are primary protagonists in the conflict. The government and the opposition are the parties concerned with the future of Lebanon and therefore they all should cooperate and find the best means of ending the conflict. The government should act as an umbrella for all factions and should try to bring justice to all groups in order to ensure a stable Lebanon.

Al Dustour: Beware of Israel

AS WE watch the warring factions in Lebanon tentatively approaching the path of peace we warn all parties to beware of Israel and the other league of enemies who are working to perpetuate the fighting and undermining all efforts for a settlement. We support all efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful agreement and encourage all peace mediators to bring the warring factions to the conference table. We are for a united, independent Lebanon and strongly oppose the partitioning of the country. Reports about an impending agreement on a ceasefire is the first major step towards ending the bloodshed and establishing peace and security. The road to peace is through dialogue and the path of peace is the only alternative that can steer Lebanon towards stability.

The warring factions have apparently arrived at a conclusion that their guns cannot achieve the aspired peace and that any tendency by one party to dominate all other groups is bound to fail. This conclusion has obviously prompted both sides to seek a safer way to end the conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab: Factions respond to mediation

THE SOUND of guns in Lebanon have not been able to obstruct mediation efforts between Damascus and Beirut. In fact the mediation efforts are about to bear fruit because the combatants and their allies all have reason to shorten the duration of the war and end the conflict. The Falangists for their part do not want to continue fighting the opposition forces so as to avoid humiliation and defeat. The opposition parties do not want to go on fighting because they do not wish to risk a confrontation with the Western powers and so lose whatever gains they might have made so far. The Lebanese government does not want the war to continue because it wants to avoid being presented as one of the conflicting parties. Also the Americans, the French and other Western powers want to end the fighting for their own reasons. The U.S. wants to avoid internal trouble in the United States and the French want to safeguard their interests in the Arab World. Only Israel wants to perpetuate the fighting in Lebanon because it stands to gain by seeing Arabs killed without itself sustaining further casualties. We wish to see the mediation efforts succeed so that Lebanon can enjoy both peace and stability once again.

COME TO THINK OF IT

What radicals?

THE WORLD has always been full of mad people. But for the world itself to go berserk is something else. Now we have evidence. For instance, if you want to be fully misinformed on the Lebanon, all you have to do is to read the Economist, which used to be reputable for facts.

In an article titled "Can the West Save Lebanon?" the magazine didn't bother to ask what Lebanon was to be saved from, but went ahead to provide an answer to its subtitle question by saying: "It might, if its soldiers were now reinforced, given air support and told they could fight." This is the main theme of the article, while the rest is elaboration. How mad!

The Americans were exhorting to follow in the steps of the French whose commander promptly threatened to bomb Druze positions in the Shouf mountains when a French colonel was killed on Sept. 7. "It is odd," the Economist exclaimed, "that when American politicians are falling over themselves to call for a firm response to the Soviet Union over the Korean air war, some should be less enthusiastic for firmness to limit a war which could cost a jumbo-jet-fleet, worth of lives in the coming months and encourage every radical in the Arab World to ride on Syria's bandwagon."

I suppose that the Economist's concern is not eco-

nomy in lives, but rather the discouragement of Arab so-called radicals from taking heart from the Lebanese radical example. Should we not ask then why the Multinational Force was introduced into the Lebanon in the first place. Was it brought in with the express purpose of stamping out Lebanese radicalism? Or was it invited to fight off Syria? Or was the Multinational Force brought in to invade the Soviet Union into a "limited" war which might become nuclear in order to prove the feasibility of limited nuclear wars?

As far as anyone can remember, the mission of the Multinational Force was to be humane and to dislodge the invading Israeli forces. The

Israelis, we were told, were resisting withdrawal for fear of being replaced by the Syrians and Palestinians. The rationale of the Multinational Force was that it would fill the vacuum until such a time when the Lebanese national army would be ready to take on the job.

Before anyone knows it, the Lebanese army was built up quickly by the Americans under a factional political leadership to fight the other Lebanese forces. It must be observed, represented a majority including Maronite, Druze, Shi'ite, Sunni and Orthodox factions of the Lebanese people.

It must be observed also that

the majority of the Lebanese people refuse the sectarian label, which found expression in their grouping under the broad-based National Salvation Front (NSF). But the Lebanese government keeps driving the sectarian point on and refused to talk with the NSF before subduing it by the force of arms first. This is understandable; because once the government starts talking with the representatives of the majority, the illusion of its being fully representative of the Lebanese people would fall.

What is not understandable is why the Multinational Force should back a minority government. The Economist and others, it seems, would have the Multinationals save Leb-

anon from itself! This is, of course, ludicrous. The Israelis have not been dislodged from the Lebanon. The Lebanese national army would be a better army if it saved itself for defending Lebanon against foreign invaders, and not to fight the people while the invaders are entrenched in the country.

The Multinational Force would better be reminded of their original neutral role. They had better stick to it or get out. Otherwise, no one can believe that they came to Lebanon for help. Radicals or not, this is none of the West's business. It is not its business to label Arab patriots as radicals and try to eradicate them.

Why Americans should see Vietnamese ghosts in Lebanon

By Anthony Lewis

As the Reagan administration slips this country deeper and deeper into the fighting in Lebanon, anyone who wonders whether there are dangers in that process ought to have a look at an important new book. It is "Vietnam: A History," by Stanley Karnow.

Even those of us who think we know something about it will read with fascination and horror Mr. Karnow's graphic account of how the United States involved itself in that disaster. Successive administrations took military steps to deal with political problems in a society that they did not begin to understand. And they took the steps gradually, surreptitiously, assuring us all the while that nothing was really changing.

Might we be heading for another Vietnam in Lebanon? Involvement on such a scale seems unlikely. But there is every reason to fear self-inflicted wounds of a lesser but still significant kind, military and political. For the American military role in Lebanon is growing in that same incremental way, accompanied by deceit and ignorance.

What political end does the administration hope to achieve by joining in the fighting in Lebanon? That is the big mystery in what is going on — and the danger. For if Ronald Reagan thinks he can straighten out the policies of Lebanon by the application of American force, he is in fantasyland.

The politics of Lebanon may be the most complicated and the ugliest on earth. Dozens of sects and parties and private armies work out their wrath upon each other. Syria with a historic interest in Lebanon, has always played a part. Each population group gets outside help where it can; without compunctions of ideology. Thus in modern times Syria has intervened both for and against the

Maronite Christians.

In Western logic, what Lebanon needs is for everyone to put aside his tribal instincts and join a national policy. But Western logic has never worked, and there is no national policy. The very issue today: the reason for the fierce sectarian warfare, is President Gemayel's failure to carry out his promise to create a government of all interests. The Druze, supported this time by Syria, are fighting for what they see as survival: Protection from a sectarian Maronite government.

The main influence in the Gemayel government is the Falange Party, whose militiamen carried out the Sabra and Shatila massacres a year ago. For the U.S. to appear as the protector of that government holds obvious risks for American interests.

The Maronites cannot put together the politics of Lebanon indeed, they cannot be expected to



have a clue to those Byzantine feuds and alliances. If the United States is to play a leadership role, it must be in diplomacy; an attempt somehow to get a real negotiation going among the warring

factions; and to get Syria's blessing for a precarious balance of some kind.

No doubt the Reagan administration would like a diplomatic solution but it has shown no skill or determination to that end. Its chief negotiator, Robert McFarlane, is a former Marine officer with no experience in diplomacy and no knowledge whatever of Lebanon.

Lyndon Johnson in 1965? No. George Shultz on Sept. 21, 1983. — New York Times

The general who silenced a people, personified infamy

PRESIDENT Pinochet, rather against the odds, has survived his first decade. Last Sunday marked the tenth anniversary of the swift and brutal coup that overthrew the constitutional government of Salvador Allende. Yet unlike some Latin American dictators, in historical fact and embroidered fiction, for whom a decade is a mere milestone in their long careers, General Pinochet has now been shown the writing on the wall. His bleak regime is slowly crumbling. He will not survive to celebrate a second decade. Indeed, given the current tensions in Santiago, he will be lucky to last another year.

In the annals of Latin America, there is nothing peculiarly dreadful about Pinochet. He is almost a familiar figure, a blinkered soldier imbued with archaic values pursuing his higher destiny with weapons of contemporary ferocity. Yet for most of the world he has come to personify the particular evils of the United States' informal empire. His name is synonymous with infamy. Pinochet's Chile conjures up an image of a country where fierce and prolonged repression has imposed the silence of the grave. But it is not an isolated example. Up and down South and Central America, to a greater or lesser extent, local Pinochets impose their will on a terrorised population. Yet only Chile has captured the imagination of the world.

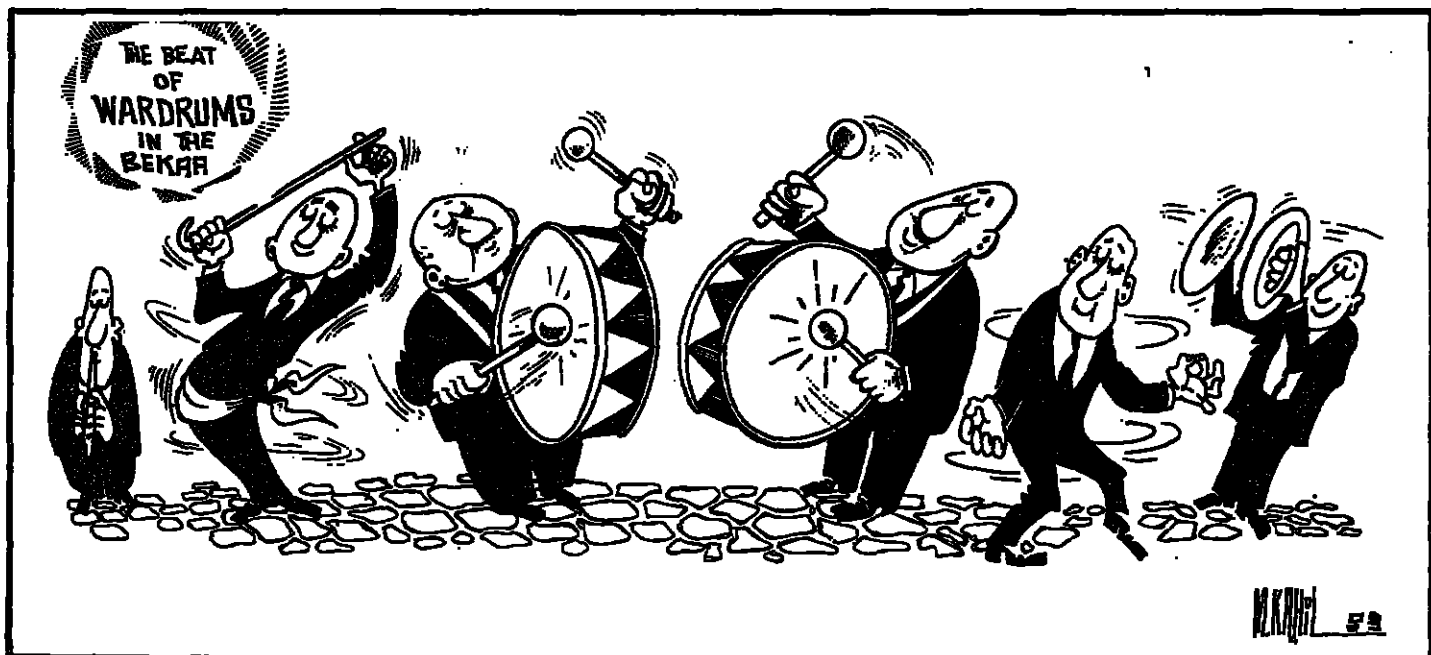
The reason is partly historical. For nearly 20 years Chile has been a hotbed of political invention and experiment. It has been forced to adopt many different roles, playing always to an international audience. First there was Eduardo Frei and the so-called "revolution in liberty" in which Christian Democracy made its brief bow on the Latin American stage — a strategy designed to encourage a small middle class to steer a middle way between feudal reaction and socialist revolution. Then came Salvador Allende and "the Chilean road to socialism" — an attempt to allow a small working class to push through major reforms with an insufficient control of the levers of power. Finally there has been Augusto Pinochet, pioneer of "the social market economy," imposing Friedmanite notions of economic liberty in an

atmosphere of totalitarian repression. Chile, it seems in retrospect, has been obliged to fasten onto every trend available, and through bitter experience has found them all unsuitable for its own use.

But there are other dimensions to the Chilean story. The dramatic and tragic nature of the coup of September 1973 caught outside attention in a way which few comparable events in Latin America have done before or since. The story of the Allende years has now passed from the hands of partisan participants into those of historians, but it still retains an heroic aspect, an attempt — despite mistakes and failures — to develop a fairer, more independent, society in the teeth of fierce internal restraints and without benefit of friendly neighbours.

An important element in President Allende's downfall — to what degree will long be a matter of debate — was the involvement of the United States and the baleful influence of Henry Kissinger, an intervention that brought the word "destabilisation" into common political parlance. In the short run, Pinochet's coup conveniently removed a source of irritation to the United States. Allende's Chile was a magnet for all those who believed that Latin America should be independent of Washington.

But in the long run, the gain has not been so obvious. The cynical undermining of Chilean democracy — flawed though it may have been — only served to encourage revolutionaries who had long argued that victory at the ballot box was not in itself a sufficient base from which to organise socialist reform. And the diaspora of Chilean exiles, particularly in Western Europe, has been of considerable historical importance, helping to create an informed public opinion in Europe that now has a rather different view of events in Latin America from the stereotype promulgated in the United States. When spokesmen in Washington talk of promoting democracy in Honduras and El Salvador, and lecture the Sandinistas on the need to hold elections, their words are mocked by the spectre of Salvador Allende. — The Guardian



Spanish Socialists under left, right fire

By Brian Mooney

Reuter

MADRID — Spain's Socialist government, which appeared almost unshakable when it took power with a four-year mandate following a landslide election victory last October, has begun to look just a little vulnerable.

Two potentially damaging cracks have emerged in less than a week with a disgruntled army general openly defying the government and trade unions threatening nationwide strikes.

At the same time, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez submitted himself to a bruising three-day debate in parliament in which his administration came under concerted fire from opponents of both the left and the right.

But despite the tone of the attacks, parliament was the 41-year-old prime minister's least concern. His Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) commands an absolute majority in Congress (lower house) with 202 of the 350 seats.

More troubling was the pressure outside parliament — from sectors of the armed forces still apparently unreconciled to Spain's new democracy and from workers not willing to go along with the Socialists' austerity measures.

Political sources said both developments were a jolt to the government which was just congratulating itself on achieving an initial success in turning the tide of economic recession.

Discontent in the barracks, which came to light with the publication of a magazine interview with a senior army general who was critical of the government, raised yet again the spectre of a military coup in Spain.

Most Spaniards had put such thoughts out of their minds since the Socialists took office in December and embarked on a course of moderate reform in the style of social democrats.

But the picture changed with a recent campaign for clemency for officers jailed for their part in a spectacular but abortive coup in February 1981 that culminated in the interview given by the commander of the Valladolid military region, Lt Gen. Fernando Soteras Casamayor.

Gen. Soteras said a majority of fellow officers wanted the coup plotters freed and also described a hypothetical case in which he said the armed forces would be justified in seizing power.

Mr. Gonzalez reacted by sacking Gen. Soteras. And he sounded a warning in parliament against military meddling in politics.

His warning was echoed by Spain's most influential newspaper, *El Pais*, which said that his government should not underestimate the threat from the military. The news magazine *Tiempo* talked of fears of a coup and another magazine, *Cambio 16*, devoted its cover story to the "ire of the generals."

Jitters over the military derive in part from the role of the Spanish Armed Forces in recent history, in particular during the 1936-39 civil war.

The war was fought and won as a crusade against the left and resulted in nearly 40 years of right-wing dictatorship under Gen. Francisco Franco who died in 1975.

Many of the senior army generals serving today are Gen. Franco veterans, including Gen. Soteras and the man chosen to replace him, Lt Gen. Ricardo Rivas Nadal.

They remain at their posts because the government is apparently powerless or unwilling to break the rigid promotion system inherited from the Franco era.

Plans to reduce the number of military regions; another anomalous hangover from the past which also ensures that major cities have military as well as civilian governors, have also still to be implemented.

The generals, meanwhile, have expressed anger at the frequency with which Basque and other separatist groups have burned the Spanish flag, strongly suggesting that the government symbol of national unity and its reality.

The army sees itself as the ultimate guardian of national unity in Spain.

Political sources said they had noted that a number of recent speeches by generals emphasised the loyalty of the armed forces to the constitution rather than the government.

Article eight of the constitution states that the mission of the armed forces is to defend Spain's territorial integrity and constitutional order, and fears have been voiced that it could be invoked to justify an army takeover.

"I would not be surprised if some element of the army tries to launch another coup," Xavier Arzallus president of the Basque National Party (PNV), commented.

The government insists, however, that there is no danger of an army rebellion. It dismisses claims that Spain's young democracy is being held hostage by the military.

But the government did face what amounted to open factory rebellion when workers at a state-owned steel mill in the eastern port of Sagunto defied orders to leave their jobs.

Management sacked or suspended the 160 men involved when they continued production of rail tracks and construction girders after a decision had been taken to close down their section of the Altos Hornos Del Mediterraneo plant.

The closure was part of a major overhaul of industry aimed at streamlining the state sector before Spain enters the European Community at a target date of 1986.

More than half the 4,000 workers at Sagunto are expected to lose their jobs under the reorganisation which the Socialist government insists is essential if Spain's state industry is to be modernised and made competitive.

The tough response to the workers' defiance, relayed through the state holding company INI which operates the plant, stressed the importance the government attached to the reform.

INI followed up the notices of dismissal with a threat to close down the entire plant if the illegal work-in continued.

But the government was confronted with equally awesome threats. The Communist-led Workers' Commissions Trade Union Movement said it would call strikes throughout Spain unless the dismissal orders were withdrawn.

Both sides later reached a compromise but the incident left a scar. It marked the first time that the trade unions had flexed their muscles since the Socialists came to power and was seen as a reminder to the government that it would have to tread more carefully in implementing the unpopular economic measures it says are needed to guarantee economic recovery.

West Bank Palestinians oppressed under Israeli occupation

By Elizabeth Thompson

For the past one year news coverage of the Palestinian situation has focused on Lebanon, Syria, and on Yasser Arafat as he has crisscrossed the globe in negotiations. With the future of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation more uncertain than ever before, how does the future look to young Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories? On a recent trip to the West Bank the author had the opportunity to talk at length with two young "homefront" Palestinians about their lives and their hopes for the future.

CAIRO — Jamal and Adnan are in their mid-twenties — too young to remember the pre-1948 Palestine their fathers knew, but old enough to think of the West Bank before the Israelis occupied it in 1967. They have grown up with violence and uncertainty. Both have had trouble finding decent jobs; their families have been scattered throughout the Middle East and the United States.

Neither of them is active politically, but both insist that an independent Palestinian state must be established.

These are their similarities, but Jamal and Adnan have grown up in very different environments that have coloured their outlook on the future. Jamal lives in the

relatively prosperous and cosmopolitan East Jerusalem. Adnan is in the poorer, violence-ridden Arab town of Hebron (Al Khalil), 20 miles to the south. I talked with each of them as they showed me around their neighbourhoods.

Most evenings Jamal climbs the Mount of Olives to his favourite perch, from where he can look down on old Jerusalem as the white stone buildings turn rose, then pale blue, at sunset. The muezzins' call to evening prayer add yet another poetic touch to a seemingly tranquil scene.

Jamal leads a fairly stable life, working as a guard outside the Al Aqsa mosque (Dome of the Rock) in the morning, playing soccer with one of Jerusalem's top clubs

each afternoon, going home for dinner in his nearby village in the evening. At night he often meets his friends at a "rock & roll" cafe in the Muslim quarter of the old city. He speaks Hebrew. Though he does not plan to play professionally, Jamal's life centres on soccer these days. "Tomorrow we have a big game with the YMCA team — 50,000 people will be there — and everyone knows me."

Though Jamal spends most of his time in the Arab section of the city, he does not hesitate to cross over to West Jerusalem when he has reason to. As a rule, Arabs and Jews keep to their own sides of the city, ride their own buses. But many Israeli Jews I met seemed fascinated by the "other" side of town, and would occasionally go to restaurants there, though most still seem afraid of possible violence.

East Jerusalem has changed a bit since 1967 and business has grown, because of tourism.

But as Jamal speaks he reveals a deep, persistent frustration with his life. He feels he will always be on the margin of Israeli society —

not that he especially wants to join the mainstream of Jewish life, but that he wishes his people had such a mainstream. He is well educated, but feels blocked in pursuing a career.

And beneath the "live and let live" truce between the two halves of the city tension continues to smolder — and occasionally flares, though newspapers in the past year or so seem to have reported fewer "incidents" than in the past.

The Haram Al Sharif area where Jamal works is particularly volatile. A sign at the entrance warns Jews that the Rabbinate forbids them to enter. All visitors are searched before entering — just last winter gunmen entered the sacred area and opened fire on the visitors.

Suspicion of Arabs continues to run high: Arab cars are stopped and houses are searched for evidence of PLO connections. "If they find even a piece of paper with a name on it," Jamal explains, "you're in trouble."

Adnan works every day taking

tickets on the Jerusalem-Hebron bus route. My friends and I got a cool reception from the passengers until they learned that we are Americans. "We thought you were Israelis and were wondering what you thought you were doing on our bus," Adnan explains as we head for his home for tea.

He lives with 6 or 7 brothers and sisters in a house that looks over the lush rolling hills that surround Hebron. One look at the landscape tells you why this area has been fought over continuously for thousands of years.

Two photographs hang on the otherwise bare livingroom walls: One of Adnan's father taken when he was serving in the British Army (he now sells grapes to Kuwait), and the other of Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Two of Adnan's brothers are working in Jordan and come home only for holidays. One of his older sisters is married and living in Saudi Arabia. Another sister is living in the United States. Because she has lived outside the West Bank for more than three years, she lost her "Palestinian status" which means that she can visit only as a tourist.

Every member of the family feels the frustration of living in occupied territory. Adnan's closest brother can't find regular work, so earns money by renting out an old truck he has repaired to local farmers. His sister is enrolled in Hebron University, but has been home for two months because the university has shut down due to student-faculty disputes.

We ride into the town in the old truck and head for the Tomb of the Patriarchs, an ancient monument that towers over the town, marking the site where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are buried. It is one of the few monuments in Palestine which both Jews and Muslims visit. Adnan takes great pride in reading the Arabic praises to Abraham that line the walls of the mosque inside. Astonished Israeli guards stare at our unusual group, wondering what those Americans are doing with those local "ruffians".

Down below, the old souk winds through the centre of the town, apparently unchanged for hundreds of years with its covered streets, old men in traditional dress, pots and pans stalls and pastry shops.

Towering over the very centre of the souk is a very different sort of landmark — a house with an Israeli flag flying on top of it, equipped with searchlights and a gun.

rdhouse for the soldiers who stand guard day and night.

"They deliberately irritate us," Adnan says. "They bring a Jewish family and put them right in the middle of an Arab area. All this space — why right in the middle?"

The house is inhabited by Moshe Levinger, leader of the Gush Emunim movement. He moved to Hebron from the Sinai, where he had organised resistance to Israeli withdrawal. Six other families live in trailers next to Levinger's house, waiting until they can build new housing for themselves. The Gush Emunim is a radical right-wing religious organisation which has set up many settlements in the occupied West Bank, with the tacit support — and protection — of Begin's government.

Nonetheless, much violence and bloodshed have resulted from the often forceful methods settlers have used to establish over 100 settlements in the West Bank since 1967.

Adnan looks up at the soldiers and remarks: "Many Palestinians say the casualties are caused by the settlers themselves — the police and army shoot at the feet or in the air."

The violence has continued. Children have begun to mimic their elders: "Those shops you see that are closed," Adnan points to several in the souk, "happen to be owned by people whose children have been identified as those who threw stones at army personnel."

Not long after I visited Hebron a Jewish seminary student was stabbed to death — Jews from surrounding settlements set fire to the central market that night. In an even more ominous move, the government removed the town's Palestinian mayor and city council, leaving Bethlehem as the only West Bank town ruled by Palestinians themselves.

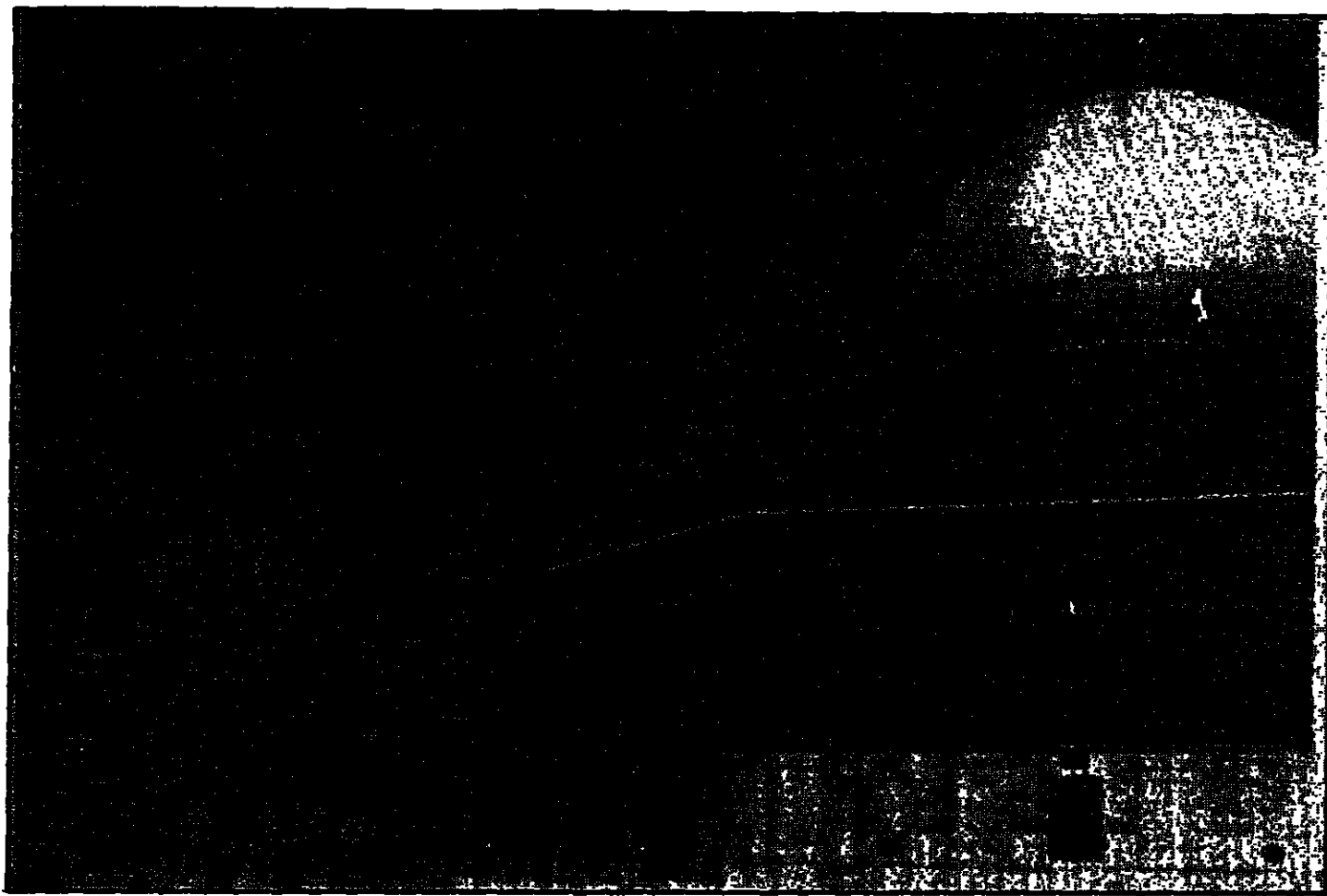
Adnan shrugs his shoulders grimly when I ask what will the future be like. "Arafat must do something," he says. "This is our land, this is our home." Jamal shares Adnan's disillusionment: "The PLO is all split up into little factions, everyone has their favourite leader — what can they do without unity?"

Recent surveys show that 80 per cent of the Palestinians in occupied areas want an independent state. Should the PLO split and lose its influence, what sort of future will young people like Jamal and

Adnan face? (47 per cent of the West Bank's population is under 14 years of age.) It will not be easy, especially for the poor and uneducated, to leave. Nor may it be desirable.

Many Israelis are quite aware of the night-marish situation their government's policies are creating. A May 13, 1983 Jerusalem Post editorial shows concern about the "vigilante" type violence of the West Bank settlers, but reveals that the Israelis themselves do not have a solution: Its description of the lawlessness of the West Bank reminds one of a particularly brutal American Western: "They (the settlers) shoot to kill in what they claim is self-defence, and they take revenge on Arab stone-throwers by vandalising Arab property. They seem to feel that their chances of being caught, let alone penalised, are slim. They are right, too."

If the PLO fails the alternatives for the future seem grim: Will the violence continue as it has for decades, even centuries, in Ireland? Or will the native population be driven out or massacred, or herded into reservations, as in the 19th century American west? — Arab News, Jeddah



The Haram Al Sharif is one of the Muslim holy places in occupied Jerusalem (A.P. wirephoto)

Defending our consumers

By Fakhri Kawar

The other day I met with an old friend, who is a judge at Amman Municipality Court. In the course of our conversation, referred to an article he wrote in the local press a year ago in which he suggested the formation of a Jordanian society for the protection of consumers.

In that article Judge Zu'eiter strongly advocated the need for defending consumers against merchants' manipulation. Such a society, he maintained, should serve as a liaison between the consumers and the public officials who receive consumers complaints and try to reach a compromise satisfactory to both parties to a dispute.

It is really a nice idea, and Judge Zu'eiter admits it was imported from across the Atlantic. Nevertheless, it has noble aims as long as it seeks to bring justice for the ordinary citizen.

The citizen is a human being

who needs someone to defend him and protect his rights against any infringements whether these rights were moral, material or otherwise. Our citizens sometimes complain to the municipality about the narrow pavements of the streets which are made worse by street vendors selling smuggled goods or a variety of petty things.

They sometimes complain about a disruption of water supplies or about other matters. The municipality does not listen to the complaint and does not do anything. The mayor sometimes replies to complaints through the call-in radio programme to "refuse" the allegations of the citizen and to stress that the grievance or complaint is baseless.

Citizens with complaints sometimes resort to the press, to the call-in radio programme to neighbours and acquaintances to present their

cases, but to no avail. All because the public official in charge regards the complaint as an attempt to slander him or to throw suspicion on the mayor in favour of his opponent who seeks the post in the next election.

Citizens with complaints try hard to defend their own rights and willingly or reluctantly they perform their duty by the book, but do not get their rights which are often ennobled upon. Citizens' rights are not confined to public services but go beyond that to include necessities for the human dignity and well-being.

Therefore, I am inclined to give priority to the establishment of a society for the defence of human rights rather than for the protection of consumers as Judge Zu'eiter had proposed nor a society for the protection of animals or movie goers or pedestrians in Amman streets.

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SPORTS

JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS

Applications are invited for the prequalification of tenders for manufacturing, supply and construction of two Micro-Hydro-Electric-Power Plants and a pumping station at North Shouneh Area.

A- The first project is to construct Hydro-Electric Power Plant at Adasiya to generate power of one Megawatt from water head available from Mukheiba Canal. The tender of this project shall include: Design, manufacturing, supply, installation and all pertaining civil works of the Hydro-Electric Power Plant.

B- The second project is to construct a pumping station with a capacity of 1.5 cu.m/sec. and a Hydro-Electric Power Plant to generate 0.3 Megawatt at North Shouneh. The tender for this project shall include: Manufacturing, supply, installation and all related civil works for the pumping station and the Hydro-Electric Power Plant.

The submitted prequalification documents shall include detailed experience of the company in the field of design, manufacturing and installation of hydro-electric plants and pumping stations along with all pertaining civil works.

Application may be submitted by individual companies and by joint ventures. In cases of joint ventures, the applications for prequalification are to be submitted by the sponsor and shall give detailed information about the members of the joint venture.

Application for prequalification will be received until Oct. 20th 1983. The present schedule is to make the tender documents available to prequalified contractors on Nov. 30th 1983, to arrange for a site visit by tenderers 30 days later, to open the tenders Jan. 31st 1984 and to award the contract April 30th 1984.

The prequalification documents are to be sent to:-

The President
Jordan Valley Authority
Amman P.O. Box 1970

Dr. Munther Haddadin
President

United breath fresh life into English first division

LONDON (R) — England's first division soccer clubs breathed a collective sigh of relief on Saturday when Manchester United did everyone a favour by ending Liverpool's unbeaten record with a 1-0 win at Old Trafford.

Despite this setback, Liverpool will remain odds-on favourites to lift the championship for the seventh time in nine years, but at least United have proved the Merseyside giants are only human after all.

Liverpool have a habit of turning the first division into a one-horse race by Christmas but United look more than capable of chasing them all the way this time.

United's victory, courtesy of a 51st minute Frank Stapleton goal, took them into second place with 15 points from seven games, three points behind leaders West Ham — who beat Notts County 3-0 — and one point ahead of Liverpool and Southampton.

Southampton, the only other previously undefeated team, went down 1-0 to 1982 European Cup Winners Aston Villa and suffered further indignity when veteran

striker Frank Worthington was sent off.

Although it was Irish international Stapleton who got his name on the scoreline, the Manchester United hero was former Scotland winger Arthur Graham, snapped up for a bargain £40,000 (£60,000) from second division Leeds in the summer.

Graham was a continual torment to Liverpool fullback Phil Neal and it was from one of his enticing crosses that Stapleton rose above the Liverpool defence to head powerfully past Zimbabwean goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

Trevor Brooking sent England manager Bobby Robson a gentle reminder that the passing years have not diminished his skills with a superb display for West Ham.

The elegant Brooking, 10 days short of his 35th birthday, has not done an international shirt since he came on as substitute against Spain in the World Cup last summer. But he showed all the midfield skills England so sadly lacked against Denmark in mid-week.

He scored the opener in the 32nd minute when he found Steve Walford with an exquisite pass, ran 20 metres to collect the return, rounded a defender and tucked the ball neatly past County goalkeeper Jim McDonagh.

Brooking turned architect in the 60th minute when another of his pinpoint passes left striker Paul Goodard the easiest of chances from close in.

West Ham took the tally to three in the last minute when Scottish international fullback Ray Stewart converted a penalty.

Another player neglected by Robson recently, Glenn Hoddle, was the mastermind behind Tottenham's 3-2 win at Watford.

Hoddle, who did not even win a seat on the substitute's bench against Denmark, highlighted a magnificent all-round display with a typical long-range goal which earned him a standing ovation from both sets of fans.

Ipswich, who started the day in second place with 13 points, lost ground when they were beaten 4-3 at home by West Bromwich in an action-packed 90 minutes.

World bridge contest starts in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (R) — The World Bridge Championships opens on Sunday and the 10 teams contesting the 26th Bermuda Bowl will play in sealed rooms with table screens separating partners to avoid suggestions of unfair practices.

After zonal playoffs, France, Italy and Sweden won the right to represent Europe. Pakistan, Brazil, Indonesia, Jamaica and New Zealand participate as winners of their elimination rounds.

Completing the field are holders United States, with two teams. Under a controversial new formula France and the favourite U.S. 'A' team are seeded direct to the semifinals. The other eight play a week-long series for the remaining two semifinal berths.

Some judges consider that going in cold to the semifinals will be to the disadvantage of France and U.S. 'A'. But for this the two teams would be favourites to reach the final, with the U.S. top team more likely to prevail.

France holds the best record in world bridge with three major titles. Italy is expected to stage a come-back, spearheaded by Gio-

rgio Belladonna and Benito Garozzo of Rome, the world's two top players.

Italy has won the Bermuda Bowl more times than any other nation.

Security precautions to avoid innuendos of unfair practices will be enforced, with table screens to prevent partners seeing each

other, silent bidding, and each match played in a separate, sealed room.

Pakistan, relative newcomers to the world bridge scene, is trying to repeat a highly successful debut in the latest Bermuda Bowl two years ago — fielding the team that reached that final and led until halfway.

Amman Little League Results for Friday 23 September

Tots	
Red ()	Blue ()
Juniors	
Abaha ()	Ericsson ()
Intercon ()	Royal Falcons 1
International Traders ()	Telcom ()
American Express 3	Foxboro ()
Mids	
AIK 1	ALICO ()
Al Ahlyah 2	Arab Wings 1
Astra ()	Jordan Express 5
Grindlays ()	Volvo 2
Seniors	
Cairo Amman Bank ()	Holiday Inn 5
Chase Manhattan ()	Marriott 3

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BMW 320 with airconditioning, cassette, metallic light green, model 1981, approx. 30,000 km, duty free.

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Salary is negotiable and will depend upon ability and experience.

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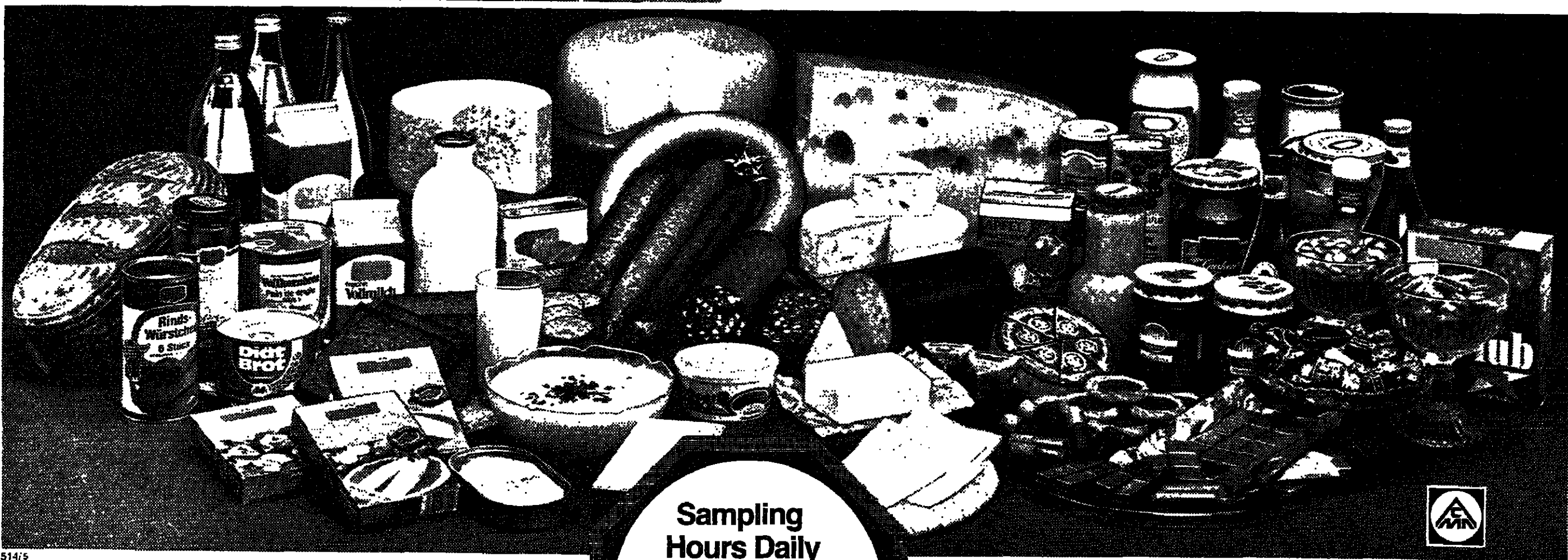
A fully furnished apartment consisting of one bedroom, salon, dining room, kitchen and veranda. With a garden.

Location: Suweilah, opposite Al Balqa Palace Hotel.

Tel: 844636



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10 am - 1 pm
and
4.30 pm - 7.30 pm

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- Piccadilly Supermarket
- Safeway Supermarket
- The Tower Supermarket

GERMAN FOOD ALL OVER THE WORLD

ECONOMY

Volvo to maintain low car production

STOCKHOLM (R) — Despite a recent jump in sales, Volvo, the giant of Swedish industry, does not plan to increase production of its best-selling cars for fear of being saddled with excess capacity if demand falls again.

"We will not go up to peak production to meet peak demand because we had rather be healthy once demand starts going down again," Volvo Chairman Per Gyllenhammar said at a meeting with foreign journalists.

In a speech punctuated by frequent warnings that demand for cars could soon drop, he said it was possible that Swedish exporters could face a very cold climate six months from now.

Mr. Gyllenhammar said Volvo would continue to invest in its energy subsidiaries, concentrating on oil and gas exploration.

He said one reason why Volvo had diversified so much over the last decade was that it was aware that the car market was extremely cyclical. "Our luck could change," he said.

Car sales jumped 51 per cent in cash terms in the first half of 1983 and accounted for about one-third of the group's turnover of 49.4 billion crowns (\$6.3 billion), according to Volvo's interim report.

The car division's performance was particularly helped by the strong dollar because of a surge in demand for Volvo's most expensive models in the United States, according to previously published company figures.

The group delivered 143,000 cars during the first six months compared with 161,000 in the same 1982 period.

Mr. Gyllenhammar, who described his car division as the star performer of the group, said Volvo would aim for maximum capacity utilization of its plants but would not increase its workforce from some 75,000 at present to meet higher demand.

"We do not want to be stuck with idle capacity and be forced into layoffs, which we may face anyway because of cycles one cannot foresee," he said.

Mr. Gyllenhammar said last October's 16 per cent Swedish devaluation added several hundred million crowns to the company's first half profits of 2.41 billion crowns.

But a strong dollar meant a weak German mark and this made things more difficult for Volvo in Europe, where West German carmakers are the company's most feared competitors, he said.

"Swedish competitive strength has been increased because of the devaluation, but the danger is that this produces short-term euphoria," Mr. Gyllenhammar said.

Offers swamp banks to buy B.P. shares

LONDON (R) — Investors swamped banks with offers to buy government shares in British Petroleum (B.P.) Friday forcing the sale to close heavily oversubscribed 60 seconds after it began.

The Bank of England, the government's agent in the sale, said the final price and the basis of allocation would be announced on Monday.

Stock market sources said there might be six times as many offers as shares. Some suggested that the sale could raise as much as £560 million (\$840 million), more than £300 million (\$450 million) above the amount expected.

The government put 130 million ordinary shares out for tender on Friday as part of its fight to control inflation and sustain economic recovery.

The sale, underwritten by the major financial institutions at a minimum price of 405 pence, will cut the government stake in B.P. from 34 to 32 per cent.

It is the second time the Conservative government has raised money by selling shares in B.P., one of the world's biggest oil companies and a major producer of Britain's North Sea oil.

Brokers said on Friday that investors were likely to be encouraged by B.P.'s plans to drill for oil in China and Alaska.

The sale follows the inauguration last week by B.P. of the Magnus field, which it described as the last of the giant oil fields off Britain.

In Stockholm, Sweden's leading petrol retailer said Friday it planned to take a one per cent stake in B.P.'s North Sea Forties oil field.

The consumer cooperative O.K., which had 1982 sales of 7.37 billion crowns (\$940 million), said the move was aimed at securing its oil deliveries for 10 years.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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"Face it, Stanley. In the great symphony of life, you're Muzak!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DAIBE

SYSUF

SESCUN

GALLOB

Here's the latest statement

You're not going to like it

PRESIDENT

WHAT THE BOSS WAS "BREAKING INTO."

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIECE WEARY HECKLE CASKET

Answer: What they called that eccentric cabdriver—A WACKY HACKIE

U.S., Third World set for clash

WASHINGTON (R) — The stage is set for a clash between the United States and the Third World over the complex issues of assistance for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international lending activities.

The so-called group of 24 developing country ministers, convening Sunday in the run up to next week's annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank, are expected to be highly critical of the U.S. role.

Treasury Secretary Donald Regan has warned that Congress is not in a generous mood for international lending these days and that this attitude is likely to persist.

Mr. Regan told reporters he thought the Congress would eventually pass legislation appropriating the U.S. share of a quota, or increase, in country commitments but admitted it was in trouble.

"I think they will come through," he said, but added it was unlikely the bill would be considered until mid-October.

The legislation calls for Congress to appropriate \$8.4 billion, the U.S. share of an approved increase in fund quotas along with an enlargement of General Arrangements to Borrow (GAB), a pool of emergency funds put up by industrial countries.

The delay has in turn led other IMF donor countries to stall on their contributions until Congress makes up its mind.

But Mr. Regan's state nents, which are sure to anger representatives from the poorer countries, appeared to go beyond the matter of the quota increase.

Mr. Regan's remarks came at a time when preliminary negotiations are under way among donor countries for an increase in the funds for the International Development Association (IDA), the soft-loan arm of the World Bank.

Meanwhile, United States consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent in August, the Labour Department reported Thursday, bringing inflation to a modest 2.6 per cent for the past year.

Many economic forecasters believe inflation will pick up slightly in the months ahead but the inflation rate for 1983 should stay in the moderate four-to-five per cent range. Since the start of the year, prices paid by consumers rose at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent compared with 3.9 per cent in 1982.

He said gas had already been pumped the length of the Soviet stage of the pipeline from Urengoi gas fields in Siberia to Uzhgorod on the Czechoslovak border using compressors built for a parallel domestic pipeline.

Mr. Scherbrina said the line was already capable of delivering nine billion cubic metres of gas whereas the contract for deliveries to West Germany, France and other Western European customers called for only five billion in 1984.

He said a second gas pipeline from Siberia to Uzhgorod would be built within the next five-year-plan, which runs until 1990, despite fluctuations in price and demand for gas.

He dismissed U.S. allegations that the Soviet Union would be able to hold Western Europe to ransom by threatening to cut supplies.

The gas will only represent 4.5 per cent of these countries' energy needs. Anyway, we always fulfil our contracts," he said.

Mr. Scherbrina said the lifting of the U.S. ban on sales of pipeline-related equipment to the Soviet Union did not mean there would be a rush of orders for American equipment. He said much had been replaced from Japan or by Soviet production.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union is stepping up efforts to tap its huge natural gas reserves and aims to boost production by more than 25 per cent by 1985, the Soviet gas industry's chief technical engineer said Friday in New Delhi.

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Belgians end strike

BRUSSELS (R) — Transport and other key public services in Belgium slowly returned to normal Saturday as state sector workers ended a strike against the government's economic austerity measures.

Buses and trams were on the streets for the first time in nine days and political commentators said the unions had extracted few concessions in their bruising confrontation with the centre-right government.

Train drivers restored links with France, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Workers began to load and unload a huge backlog of ships at Antwerp and ferry services

from Ostende to Britain resumed. Political commentators said the pay and the benefit cuts that caused the strike remained largely intact. Only about four million of about 175 million in planned savings next year had been restored.

Deputy Prime Minister Charles Ferdinand Nothelm reaffirmed the government's determination to cut its huge budget deficit, but promised continued cooperation with the unions.

The strike collapsed Friday night after the powerful Socialist Union Federation voted to join Christian and Liberal unions in accepting the government's terms.

The federation rejected calls from militants for a general walk-out next week but warned: "This decision is only a truce while we gather fresh weapons against the attacks of the government."

Union and government leaders are due to meet on Monday to discuss economic policy. The unions have promised further national disruption if the negotiations fail.

Government officials reported that transport services were more or less back to normal, except in parts of the traditionally militant heavy industry areas of the south.

However, the country will have to wait until Monday before workers begin clearing the piles of stinking rubbish littering city streets.

The budget was announced soon after industry officials narrowly averted confrontation with steelworkers protesting against government plans to overhaul top-heavy industries.

Management and workers at the state-owned Sagunto plant reached a compromise solution to head off a national steel strike after workers were threatened with sanctions.

The maximum average income tax would rise to 46 per cent from 45 per cent in this year's budget, Mr. Boyer said.

He added the budget foresaw increased taxes but added the increase would largely be the result of renewed efforts to step up the fight against tax fraud and to extend and improve the administration of tax collection.

"In the current circumstances of the Spanish economy, it is clear that if the deficit must be reduced, otherwise the financing of the non-public sector would be seriously threatened," Mr. Boyer

said. The ruling Socialists made an election promise last year to create 800,000 new jobs. Spain's registered unemployment in July stood at 2.16 million, or 16.5 per cent of the active population.

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Spain's 1984 budget holds down public sector wages

MADRID (R) — Spain's Socialist government, facing growing labour opposition to its economic policies, Friday announced plans to hold public sector wages below the inflation level next year.

Presenting the details of his 1984 budget, Economy Minister Miguel Boyer also proposed a slight rise in maximum average income tax, stepping up the fight against tax fraud and maintaining corporate income tax at current levels.

Public sector wage rises are to be kept to 0.5 per cent next year, well below a forecast eight per cent inflation rate, he said.

Mr. Boyer said the principal aims of the budget, which now goes to parliament for debate, were to encourage investment in the public sector and the creation of new jobs.

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WORLD

Philippines bans demonstrations after widespread Manila riots

MANILA (R) — Military chiefs in the Philippines, facing more anti-government unrest, have banned all demonstrations held without official permission.

"We shall always be a friend to all. We will be fair but firm. But we will not in any instance tolerate anarchy, intimidation, violence or coercion," armed forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver said.

After meeting President Ferdinand Marcos at his home, 1.5 kilometres from the scene three days ago of the worst violence since martial law was imposed 11 years ago, Gen. Ver also announced a review of the security forces' anti-riot tactics and equipment.

Security forces Friday forcibly dispersed four crowds of demonstrators who had gathered in Manila to express opposition to Mr. Marcos, who has rejected demands for his resignation.

But a senior police officer in charge of an anti-riot unit said he expected further trouble, while Manila's police chief, Maj.-Gen. Prospero Olivas, told Reuters that the security forces had "held back too much already and this has been interpreted as a sign of weakness."

Police used teargas and truncheons to break up about 2,000 students who converged on the U.S. embassy, carrying an effigy of U.S. ambassador Michael Armistead and claiming Mr. Marcos was Washington's "puppet."

Japanese disputes official version of Aquino killing

NEW YORK (R) — A Japanese writer at the scene of the Benigno Aquino killing has claimed that television tapes showed the Philippines opposition leader was not shot by a lone assassin.

Freelance Kiyoshi Wakamiya, who flew with Mr. Aquino to the Philippines on Aug. 21, told reporters the key to the killing lay in two words picked up on TV tapes two weeks before Mr. Aquino was shot as he walked down an airliner's steps at Manila Airport.

The tapes were made by ABC and Tokyo Broadcasting System crews who were also on the China Airways flight with Mr. Aquino.

Mr. Wakamiya played the tapes and stopped them at the words "pusla, pusla". Two seconds later he stopped the tape again for reporters to hear the shot which he said killed Mr. Aquino.

The words were identified by Filipino opposition members, including Mr. Aquino's youngest sister, Teresa, at the press conference as meaning "shoot him, shoot him" in the Visayan dialect spoken in the Central Philippines.

Mr. Wakamiya, whose own eyewitness account of the Mr. Aquino killing has provoked controversy, said he believed the

words must have been spoken by one of the armed uniformed guards who accompanied Mr. Aquino down the plane's steps.

Three seconds after Mr. Aquino was shot, more shots could be heard on the tape — the shots that killed his alleged assassin Rolando Galman.

The Philippines government has claimed that Galman, a gunman for hire, was the lone killer of Mr. Aquino.

But Mr. Wakamiya said, it was the case, why was the phrase "shoot him, shoot him" uttered just two seconds before Mr. Aquino was killed.

"The television film contains the vital keys to the truth of the assassination, because it combines what it captures with my own eyewitness account and each gives with the other," he said through a translator.

Mr. Wakamiya said he has been frequently misquoted as to what he saw, including the assertion that he said he actually saw two militiamen draw guns and shoot Mr. Aquino.

He said that what he saw was two uniformed guards, naked as to draw guns from their holsters.

Eight men armed with automatic rifles, later identified as members of the security forces, threw four teargas grenades into the main street of Manila's financial district of Makati to disperse an estimated 3,000 people who gathered, apparently spontaneously, to chant their opposition to Mr. Marcos.

Two groups of youths and students later headed towards the presidential palace, cordoned off by police and military units with firearms and anti-riot equipment.

They were urged by loudhailers to go home, but a taxi carrying two men tried to rush the police cordon. Witnesses said it was fired on after being stopped. Police said the two men were under the influence of drugs.

The demonstrations followed peaceful, mass rallies on Wednesday calling for the resignation of Mr. Marcos and an end to U.S. influence in the Philippines. Police said 10 people were killed and 143 injured in subsequent street battles with the security forces when demonstrators tried to force their way to the palace.

Police said 51 people had been arrested so far in connection with Friday's demonstrations.

Mr. Marcos has blamed the violence on his political opponents and hinted strongly that he would reimpose martial law, lifted three years ago, if the unrest continued.

Cardinal Jaime Sin, Roman Catholic archbishop of Manila, visited Mr. Marcos Thursday night at the palace in what churchmen said was an attempt to avert further bloodshed and reduce tension.

A church spokesman said the cardinal, who was telephoned by Mr. Marcos to arrange a meeting, proposed setting up an official, national council of reconciliation.

Church sources said the meeting lasting 30 minutes and took place in a friendly atmosphere. Mr. Marcos was quoted as saying he would consider the cardinal's proposals very seriously.

Mr. Marcos was quoted by U.S. CBS TV network Friday as saying support for the U.S. military bases in the Philippines would be undermined if President Reagan postponed his planned visit to Manila in November.

Filipino government officials quoted him as telling the U.S. CBS television network that it would be a blow if Mr. Reagan delayed the trip.

But he added that it was up to the U.S. government and Mr. Reagan himself to decide whether to proceed with the visit.

"This is a matter which is personal to the president," Mr. Marcos said. "This is security and I personally believe matters of security and safety of a public official should be left to his own discretion and judgement."

In an interview with the American Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Thursday, Mr. Marcos dismissed suggestions that he was using the U.S. bases to blackmail Mr. Reagan into going ahead with his visit.

Opposition leaders, urging Mr. Reagan to cancel the visit, have said they will greet him with big anti-American demonstrations. Mr. Marcos told CBS: "We do not intend to attempt to hold him to his itinerary. On the contrary, what is safe for President Reagan is what we want. If in the ultimate analysis it is safer for him to come, we will attend to our problems alone."

Opposition leader Salvador Laurel, citing the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino at Manila Airport a month ago, has said the Philippine government has shown it is not capable of providing adequate security.

Arms, Asian security on Weinberger's China list

PEKING (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger arrives Sunday for talks with Peking leaders expected to centre on Asian security issues and newly-improved prospects for sales of U.S. high technology to China.

Mr. Weinberger, who flies to Peking from Tokyo, is due to hold long talks with his Chinese opposite number, technocrat Zhang Aiping.

He is also expected to meet a so-far unidentified "Chinese leader" a formula usually denoting one of the ruling triumvirate — Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang, Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang or influential elder statesman Deng Xiaoping.

It will be the first visit of a U.S. defence secretary to China since Harold Brown, President Carter's Pentagon chief, flew to Peking in January 1981, just weeks after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan which both countries fiercely opposed.

Western diplomats in Peking said there was unlikely to be any repeat discussion of what Mr. Brown openly called the Sino-American "global strategic relationship."

But they said that, despite China's recent attempts to steer a middle path between the two superpowers, Peking and Washington still had shared strategic views on a number of Asian security issues.

The diplomats listed Afghanistan, Indochina, Soviet troop concentrations along China's border and the stationing of SS-20 missiles in Soviet East Asia as areas where the two governments' positions converged.

The vexed question of continuing U.S. arms sales to the Chinese Nationalists on Taiwan, which Peking maintains is a flagrant breach of its sovereignty over the island province, was bound to be raised, the diplomats went on.

But they said that the two sides' positions had been well rehearsed at a series of high-level contacts, and that having forcefully made their point the Chinese leaders were not expected to allow the dispute to sour the atmosphere of the visit.

Mr. Weinberger comes to China at a time when Peking-Washington relations, after a period of intense strain over Taiwan and a U.S. ban on the transfer of dual-use advanced technology, have recently shown a marked improvement.

Conciliatory gesture
In a conciliatory gesture in June, President Reagan — against

the advice of Mr. Weinberger and his Pentagon aides — lifted restrictions on sales to China of civilian technology which could be adapted for military use.

Although details of the equipment categories to be made available to China have not yet been made public, diplomatic sources said they obviously included computers and precision instruments vital for China's industrial modernisation drive.

The defence secretary was expected to convey this information confidentially to the Chinese leadership, the sources said.

But they added that no firm agreements were expected to be concluded by Mr. Weinberger on sales of high technology or defensive arms, another possible topic for discussion.

Mr. Weinberger himself made it clear last week that the administration stood by the commitment made by then Secretary of State Alexander Haig in June 1981 that the U.S. would give positive consideration to any Chinese request to supply defensive weaponry or systems.

Mr. Weinberger told reporters during his flight to Asia that he would listen to all Peking requests for U.S. arms, adding that a strong China would help deter Soviet aggression and keep world peace.

"We think that a strengthened Chinese economy and a modernised, strong military is an important part of world stability and of maintaining world peace," the defence secretary said.

But he added that, though he was willing to talk about any weapons system the Chinese might want, he did not think any sales were imminent and declared: "I don't have any order books with me."

He said the items the Chinese might want included air defence and early warning radar systems, and lorries and troop-carrying helicopters to give mobility to the 4.2-million strong People's Liberation Army (PLA), the world's largest.

Since Mr. Reagan relaxed regulations on technology transfers, Mr. Weinberger said, the way was open for China either to buy U.S. weapons or manufacture U.S.-designed weapons for themselves. According to Western diplomats, another major topic at the Peking talks was expected to be Mr. Weinberger's desire to continue and expand the programme of military exchanges at lower levels which began after the 1980 talks between Secretary Brown and the then defence minister, Geng Biao.

Several U.S., Soviet ships leave search area; hunt not abandoned

TOKYO (R) — Several of the U.S. and Soviet ships searching for wreckage of the South Korean airliner shot down by a Soviet fighter on Sept. 1 have left the area, coastguards on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido said Saturday.

They had no explanation for the departure of the vessels, although they noted that the seas were rough.

The United States has been particularly keen to recover the airliner's flight recorder in the hope that it would provide evidence why the aircraft strayed over Soviet air space.

A Japanese foreign ministry official said U.S. and Japanese officials would go to a Soviet port on Sakhalin Island Sunday to receive wreckage and other objects from the airliner found by Soviet searchers.

In Seoul, the South Korean foreign ministry issued a statement denouncing North Korea for supporting the Soviet claim that the airliner was spying for the United States.

In New York the Soviet Union was charged with negligence Friday in a \$2 billion suit arising from the downing of the airliner.

The suit was brought in Manhattan Federal Court by Betty Lim, widow of Dr. Jong Jin Lim, a physicist at Columbia University who was a passenger on the ill-fated plane, which was shot down on Sept. 1.

Also named as defendants in the suit were Korean Air Lines, owner of the plane, the Boeing company, and Linton Industries, which manufactured the navigational system.

The suit charged that a Soviet jet fighter either "willfully and deliberately" failed to warn of the attack or that the pilot of the Boeing 747 "willfully and deliberately" failed to respond by flashing its navigational and landing light.

The suit charged the Soviet Union's action under the circumstances amounted to a "want-

on, willful, deliberate, cold-blooded, barbaric, inhuman and horrifying act of murder."

The suit also charged the Korean Air Lines pilot deliberately deviated from his route in order to save time and fuel. There have been several lawsuits filed by families of the victims.

Pravda sums up

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party newspaper Pravda Saturday summed up Moscow's view of the South Korean airliner incident, saying Washington was evading eight questions which showed the plane was on an espionage mission.

Pravda said in a front page editorial that President Reagan and the U.S. administration were whipping up anti-Soviet hysteria "around the crude provocation connected with the dispatch of a South Korean plane with special intelligence assignments into Soviet airspace in the Far East."

Guerrillas storm Sri Lankan jail

COLOMBO (R) — Separatist guerrillas stormed a maximum security jail in eastern Sri Lanka Friday night and freed more than 200 prisoners, police said Saturday.

Among those released were 44 guerrillas awaiting trial on charges including attacks on security forces and bank robberies, they said.

The outlawed guerrilla movement, known as Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, is fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces.

The killing of 13 Sinhalese sol-

diers by the guerrillas on July 23 in the northern district of Jaffna triggered bloody violence in which nearly 400 people died and hundreds of houses, shops and factories were damaged.

Police said the well-planned raid on the jail in the eastern coast city of Batticaloa was mainly to free the guerrillas but other prisoners also seized the chance to escape.

Newspaper accounts of the raid said the attackers who arrived in two lorries, were heavily-armed and disguised in military uniforms. One of the lorries was found

abandoned near the beach and police said the guerrillas might be fleeing by boat to southern India, a route taken by fugitives in the past.

Security forces launched a massive hunt for the escaped prisoners and recaptured about 10. But police said there was no sign of the runaway guerrillas or the gang that sprung them.

The guerrillas were transferred to Batticaloa jail from Colombo in July after 52 of their companions were massacred in two prison riots at the height of the ethnic violence.

China rejects British claims on Hong Kong

PEKING (R) — China Saturday rejected claims that Hong Kong's prosperity could not be maintained without British administration, saying that Peking played an essential role in shielding the colony from the worst effects of the world recession.

The New China News Agency (NCNA) said the territory's prosperity was "mainly the result of the diligence, wisdom and meticulous management of the over five million Hong Kong residents of whom over 98 per cent are Chinese compatriots."

"Another very important factor for Hong Kong's prosperity has been the vigorous support given by the Chinese mainland in various fields during a long period in the past."

China's defence of its economic role in Hong Kong was published a day after a further session of talks between British and Chinese officials on the future of the territory, which Peking intends to claim back by 1997.

Neither side gave details of any progress in the talks, held against a background of increased anxiety

in the colony's financial markets.

The agency said in Saturday's commentary that Peking came to Hong Kong in 1973-74 when its oil supplies fell by 10 per cent because of the worldwide energy crisis. It said China sent special shipments and quoted a senior British official as saying this was most welcome.

"It should be noted that at that time oil was also in urgent need on the Chinese mainland and that it was a vital commodity on the international market," it said.

'START accord improbable in '83'

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S.-Soviet strategic arms accord is all but inconceivable this year, a senior administration arms control official said Friday.

The official said that Edward Rowny, chief U.S. negotiator in the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START), believes an accord on general guidelines in remotely possible this year but only if several very difficult conditions are satisfied first.

"In my wildest imagination I can't see all of this being true," added the official, who briefed a small group of reporters on condition that he not be identified by name.

The Washington Post this week quoted Mr. Rowny as saying he believed that an accord was possible this year.

Among the preconditions the official listed Friday were an agree-

ement in separate U.S.-Soviet talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) and resolving two key issues in START.

He said these differences were over Moscow's demand to lump all nuclear weapons together in counting them — known as "aggregation" — and U.S. insistence on limiting Soviet missile lifting power, or "throw-weight", which would require reducing the number of huge Soviet SS-17, 18 and 19 missiles.

The round of START talks that begins on Oct. 6 may clear away remaining underbrush on these points, the official said, but "between now and December, there is no way we can get an agreement."

He also said the Soviet downing of a South Korean airliner on Sept. 1 would make a nuclear arms agreement even more difficult to achieve.

With Americans more distrustful of Moscow than before the airliner incident, he said, Mr. Rowny would have to insist on "supertough verification" provisions in any accord.

Chances of agreement are further reduced by the fact that after the incident, three meetings planned between Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko were either called off or limited to discussing the downing of the plane, he said.

The official said he did not know whether President Reagan would further modify the U.S. START proposal or give Mr. Rowny more flexibility for the coming round of talks.

But he said Mr. Rowny still has plenty of flexibility that he had not used yet and felt no need for a new bargaining stand.

Andropov reportedly doing 'everything possible' to end missile deadlock

GENEVA (R) — Soviet President Yuri Andropov has said Moscow "has been doing everything in its power to break the deadlock" at the U.S.-Soviet missile talks, a church body said Friday.

The Soviet leader's comment, included in a letter to the Lutheran World Federation, said the Soviet Union is taking a constructive and flexible approach at the Geneva negotiations on limiting nuclear medium-range missiles.

The letter, signed by Soviet ambassador Mikhail Sytenko, replied to an appeal which the Lutheran delivered last July to the Soviet and U.S. missions here, urging mutual concessions in the talks.

Mr. Sytenko said that President Andropov, after hearing the churchmen's message, wished to stress that the Soviet Union had tried to attain progress by meeting "its partner halfway, while the USA is persisting in its stiff and obviously unrealistic demands for unilateral USSR disarmament."

triple-warhead SS-20 missiles. Mr. Andropov added, according to Mr. Sytenko:

"The recent initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union on August 27, 1983, once more convincingly testify to the fact that the USSR has been doing everything in its power to break the deadlock in the negotiations and reach a mutually acceptable agreement."

Mr. Sytenko said the Soviet president also wished to emphasise that "the USSR favours a constructive and flexible approach, but any flexibility has its limits."

The letter, released by the Lutheran federation Friday, was dated Sept. 19. The federation said the U.S. mission had not responded to its appeal.

'There is time'

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov said in an interview published there was still time for the United States and the Soviet Union to reach agreement on limiting medium range missiles in Europe.

Mr. Tikhonov's interview, given to the Austrian newspaper Arbeiter Zeitung and also published by Pravda, was the latest in a str-

eam of statements by Soviet leaders on the missile issue directed at West European public opinion.

The prime minister repeated the Soviet position that any deployment of U.S. missiles would disrupt an existing balance and added:

"There is still time for achieving in Geneva a truly honest agreement that would take into account the interests of security of all sides."

"If this favourable opportunity is missed... the Soviet Union will be faced with the need to take without delay counter-measures in order to preserve the balance of forces on a regional, European as well as global scale."

Moscow has so far avoided defining the nature of the counter-measures it is threatening to take. Chief of staff Nikolai Ogarkov said Thursday American strategists should avoid imagining the Soviet Union would blindly copy U.S. moves.

Diplomats said Marshal Ogarkov's remark could be a hint that Moscow planned to deploy submarine-launched missiles closer to the U.S. coastline.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spanish government faces church trouble

MADRID (R) — Spain's Roman Catholic bishops have reacted angrily to the socialist government's decision to ban two religious text books which condemn abortion. The ban, announced by the education ministry Friday, seems likely to increase tension between the church and the socialists, who have drafted laws to allow abortion in certain cases and to tighten state control of private, church-owned schools. Archbishop Elias Yanes, president of the episcopal education commission, said the prohibition of texts edited by the church would be "an especially ominous move."

Sri Lanka frees communist leaders

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's government has freed four leaders of the outlawed pro-Vietnam Communist Party who were arrested during recent ethnic violence, party sources said. Party general secretary K.P. Silva, the editor of its daily newspaper, H.G.S. Rainawera, and two other members of the party politburo, were freed Friday, they said.

Chile's opposition tones down attack

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's opposition has toned down its attack on the country's military rulers after charges were dropped against a prominent trade union leader, but said only big changes could stop fresh anti-government violence. The democratic alliance, which groups political parties opposed to Gen. Augusto Pinochet's rule, reiterated criticism of the government made in a manifesto last month. But it failed in a policy statement to renew demands for Gen. Pinochet's resignation, merely voicing the need for a quick return to democracy.

France unveils 'lightning force'

ETAIN AIR BASE, France (R) — France has unveiled a new unit of anti-tank helicopters destined to become the spearhead of a 47,000-man mobile rapid deployment force. The experimental "lightning force" of over 80 Puma, Alouette and Gazelle helicopters was the star of autumn manoeuvres involving 22,000 men of France's First Army Corps, based here near the Belgian and West German borders. Defence minister Charles Hernu, followed the "Mioselle-83" war games from a hedge-hopping Gazelle helicopter. He hailed the exercise as a first step in the creation of the "force d'action rapide" (rapid deployment force) which he announced last June.

Famous London restaurant fined

LONDON (R) — One of London's most famous restaurants, the Cafe Royal, was fined £675 (£1,000) for breaches of food and hygiene regulations. During a four-day court hearing, the prosecution alleged that cockroaches had been seen on the premises. The court dismissed this allegation and 35 others, but found the restaurant guilty of eight minor breaches, such as having flaking paint in the pastry room. The owners, the Trust Houses Forte Group, said the publicity surrounding the case might prove very damaging for the restaurant.

Soviets challenge rubik cube

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has unveiled a rival to the rubik cube, the multi-coloured wrist-twist puzzle born in Hungary, that maddened millions in a craze which swept the world four years ago. TASS news agency announced its appearance Saturday. The Moldavian pyramid, it said, is the brainchild of an engineer called Alexander Ordynets who earns his living in a tractor works. The thing is now in production at a factory in the Moscow area. And what does it have over rubik's cube? Well, on the one hand, said TASS, it's simpler. It has fewer combinations to tease the brain. But on the other, it's more complicated, as its 14 elements all turn on inclined planes while the cube rotates at right angles.

Self in life